

(a) whether any study was made of safe use and non-security hazards of the microlight aircraft prior to the purchase of these aircraft;

(b) if not, the reasons therefore and the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons responsible for loss to the Government;

(c) whether the Government propose to dispose of these non-used aircraft;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). The need for conducting such a study was not felt as the microlight aircraft is considered quite safe and there are no non-security hazards, if flown within its technical limitations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Aero Club of India has plans to redistribute these microlight aircraft to its other member clubs.

Loans for Textile Mills

2892. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the owners of new textile mills, textile mills running in losses and others who intend to modernisation their textile mills are not getting loans from financial institutions; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to provide loans to the owners of such mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) Financial Institutions viz: Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Financial Corporation of India (IFCI), Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), are extending assistance to Textile Mill for:

(i) setting up new mills, particularly spinning mills.

(ii) rehabilitation of loss making sick units as per relief packages offered by Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(iii) Expansion and Diversification of existing units.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Unemployment

2893. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHSORE
RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of unemployed persons is increasing continuously in the country in spite of implementation of well planned schemes during the last decade;

(b) if so, the percentage of annual rate of increase in the number of unemployed persons during the above period;

(c) whether the rate of unemployment has further increased during the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A.SANGMA): (a) to (c). Comparable estimates of unemployment, based on

comprehensive surveys on employment and unemployment, conducted by the NSSO at quinquennial intervals, are available for 1972-73, 1977-78, 1983 and 1987-88. Estimates of unemployment at the beginning of the Eighth Plan and at the end of the first and second years of the Eighth Plan have been made by the Planning Commission. Annual rates of growth of unemployment based on the estimates of unemployment, by weekly status, for different periods are as follows:—

Period	Average Annual Rate of Growth of Unemployment(%)
1972-73 to 1977-78	2.35
1977-78 to 1983	1.38
1983 to 1987-88	3.14
1987-88 to 1992	4.38
1992 to 1994	4.32

(d) The increase in unemployment is primarily on account of increase in the labour force.

(e) Expansion of employment opportunities is an important objective of Eighth Five Year Plan and the plan strategy lays emphasis on faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors and areas having high employment potential, for accelerating employment growth.

Seizure of Narcotics

2894. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) number of cases of seizures of drugs reported during each of the last

three years and the quantity of drugs seized;

(b) value of seized drugs in the international market;

(c) whether cooperation of neighbouring countries has been sought in checking trafficking of drugs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to check the drug trafficking in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):