

ILO Norms for Jute Sector

3342. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of International Labour Organization Convention of Plantations;

(b) whether the Government propose to implement ILO convention for Jute Sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c): On plantations, the International Labour Organisation adopted Convention No. 110 in 1958 and a Protocol in 1982. These standards regulate the conditions of employment of plantation workers and cover, *inter alia*, issues such as Wages, Annual Holidays, Weekly Rest, Maternity Protection, Workmen's Compensation, Housing Medical Care, Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining, Labour Inspection, etc. Although the ILO has not adopted any international labour standards specifically for the Jute Sector, the above standards, *inter alia*, covers fibres such as Jute. India has not ratified the above Convention and Protocol so far, as the Standards therein cover cultivation of a large number of agricultural and horticultural crops which are presently not covered under the Indian Plantation Labour Laws.

Air Freight Subsidy for Export of Food Items

3343. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced Air-Freight Subsidy for the export of food and agro-products to establish a strong foot-hold in the foreign markets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

(SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Joint Ventures of Essar Group

3344 SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 761 on August 4, 1995 and state:

(a) whether India and Russia have agreed that a part of India's rupee debt repayments to Russia could be utilised towards Russian investments in joint ventures in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from Russian companies for investment in joint ventures in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have received any proposal from M/s. Essar Gujarat Ltd., for investing in a joint venture with Russian companies;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether a proposal of M/s. Essar Gujarat Ltd. for investing US \$ 80 million in joint venture company in Italy has also been received; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b): The two Governments have agreed to this, in principle, the details in this regard are yet to be finalised.

(c) to (f): Government have received a proposal for a joint venture in India from M/s. Essar Gujarat Ltd. involving the use of rupee debt funds. Preliminary suggestions from some Russian companies have also been received.

(g) and (h): Yes, Sir M/s. Essar Gujarat Ltd. had submitted a proposal for an investment of US \$ 76.8 million in a steel venture in Italy.

[Translation]

Industrial Unit Involved in Securities Scam

3345. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several industrial companies involved in the securities scam of 1992 have violated the Companies Act, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of such units;

(c) the action taken against these industrial units;

(d) whether some officers involved in the scam are still working with these companies; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Air Traffic Control through Satellite Technology

3346. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state: