

(b) at what rates it has been imported and distributed; and

(c) what is the market rate at present prevailing in the country and the steps taken to reduce the prices?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA):

(a) to (c) The import of edible oils have been canalised through the STC since 2.12.1978. Apart from this NDDB is also importing some quantity of edible oils as gift. In addition, some quantities of edible oils have also been imported by private parties against their pre-canalisation commitments during the year 1979-80.

The imports by STC during the last three years and for the period 1.2.1980 to 30.6.1980 are as under:

1977-78 . . .	5.63 lakh tonnes
1978-79 . . .	5.71 " "
1979-80 . . .	10.39 " "
1-2-80 to 30-6-80	5.73 " "

The details of exports of edible oils during the last three years is as under:

1977-78 . . .	482 tonnes
1978-79 . . .	2442 tonnes
1979-80 . . .	7997 tonnes upto July, 1979

The prices of imported oil have been varying from time to time depending upon the variety of edible oil imported. The prices have been generally ranging between Rs. 4100 to Rs. 5665 per tonne (taking the conversion rate at U.S. \$1—Rs. 8.00).

The present issue prices of imported oil supplied to States|Union Territories for Public Distribution System are as under:

	(Rs. PMT)
(i) Crude rapeseed oil . . .	6300
(ii) Refined rapeseed Oil (in tins) . . .	8000
(iii) RBD palm oil / palmolein (in bulk) . . .	6400
(iv) RBD Palmoil / Palmolein (in tins) . . .	7750

For supply of oil to vanaspati industry, the present issue prices are given below:

	(Rs-PMT)
Soyabean oil . . . . .	7210
Rapeseed oil . . . . .	7210
Crude Palmoil . . . . .	7060

The recent market prices are reported to be generally as under :—

Groundnut . . .	Rs. 10.93 to Rs. 11.00 per kg.
Mustard oil . . .	Rs. 11.50 per kg.
Sesame oil . . .	Rs. 12.50 per kg.

The imported edible oils are released by STC to State|UT Governments at fixed prices, who in turn fix the end—retail prices after marginal adjustments. The current retail prices of imported edible oils are generally as under:

Palmolein and RBD palm oil	Rs. 8.25 per kg.
Refine rapeseed oil . . . . .	Rs. 8.50 per kg.

The steps taken to reduce market prices include stepping up of distribution of edible oils through Public Distribution System, enforcement of Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977 and of the provisions of Essential Commodities Act. In addition, an Action Plan for increasing the production of oilseeds has also been taken up by the Department of Agriculture. Similarly, action is being taken to increase the production of vanaspati.

#### Income Tax raids in Gujarat

6581. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some raids of income-tax and such other departments have been conducted in various parts of Gujarat very recently;

(b) if so, the details of such raids during 1st February, 1980 to 15th June, 1980;

(c) the reasons for such raids and the outcome thereof;

(d) the names of big industrialists, businessmen etc. who are involved in the same;

(e) how many persons have been sent to jails, fined, punished so far out of it and the details thereof;

(f) against how many persons cases are going on and the details of cases;

(g) whether Government are aware that these people are using their influence to drop the proceedings and revoke the punishments given to them; and

(h) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Income-tax Department conducted 138 searches during the period 1.2.1980 to 30.6.1980. The value of assets seized during the course of above searches amounts to Rs. 22.50 lakhs approx.

(c) Raids were conducted to unearth concealed income/wealth which the authorities believed could not be detected by other means available with the Department.

(d) Considerable time and effort will be involved in giving details of names of the assessee covered by the searches. However, if the Hon'ble Member desired to have information about a particular search, the same will be furnished.

(e) and (f) Investigations in these cases are in progress.

(g) and (h) Action in all the cases will be taken in accordance with law.

**Cut in passenger Traffic after Increase in Fare Rates**

6582. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a reasonable cut in passenger traffic after increase of fare rates in aeroplanes recently;

(b) if so, whether Government have proposals to reduce the fares keeping in view of the same;

(c) what were the passengers capacity in various planes on various routes of the country from 1st January, 1980 to 30th June, 1980 and that to after the increase of passenger fares; and

(d) the details of the passengers travelled during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR):

(a) It is too early to assess the pattern of traffic after the levy of the fuel surcharge by Indian Airlines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The requisite information is as under:—

Period (1980)	No. of passengers carried (in lakhs)	System seat fac- tor.
January . . .	4.24	65.6
February . . .	4.20	67.4
March . . .	4.48	67.8
April . . .	4.47	69.4
May . . .	4.69	68.5
June . . .	4.22	67.8

**New Pay Commission for Central Government Employees**

6583. SHRI BAGUN SUMBRUI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the rising