

in respect of the manufacture of washing soap and toilet soap were prescribed by Government sometime back;

(b) whether the prescribed levels stand changed because of taking over of big units like Stephen Chemicals Ltd., Rajpura, Union Home Products Ltd., Mangalore and by setting up of new production units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). The Soap making units of Hindustan Lever Ltd., at Bombay and Calcutta were in existence prior to the enactment of I (D&R) Act, 1951. Subsequently the productive capacity has been fixed by the Government for both these two units. M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd., were allowed to take over M/s Stephen Chemicals subject to the condition that the licenced capacity of this Unit would be subsumed within the overall licensed capacity of Toilet Soap of M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd. This principle has been adopted by the Government in similar cases.

Boeing fleet with Indian Airlines

4117. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing Boeing fleet with the Indian Airlines has already passed the economic age and their operation and maintenance has become increasingly expensive and uneconomic in the course of the last five years;

(b) if so, whether any negotiations with any foreign country have been made for their repairs and maintenance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, the names of such countries and how much foreign exchange is likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No Boeing-737

aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines has crossed the economic age. However, nine B-737 aircraft of Indian Airlines will be crossing economic design life beyond 20 years in the next five years. The operation and maintenance of these aircraft have become expensive due to repairs and modifications. Indian Airlines has plans to withdraw the first batch of B-737 aircraft acquired in 1970-71 from its commercial operation during 1991.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

Labour Relation Committee in Air India

4118. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the term of the "Labour Relations Committee" in Air India; and

(b) when it is proposed to reconstitute the Committee by elections?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) According to Rule 51 of Air Corporations Rules, 1954, the term of Labour Relations Committee is two years.

(b) The staff notice issued by the Management on 21.5.1987 for holding elections to elect 12 representatives of employees by means of secret ballot for constituting the 16th Labour Relations Committee has been challenged through a writ petition in the Bombay High Court. The High Court has granted a stay restraining the Management from holding elections. The matter is presently subjudice.

Grant-in-aid to Aero Club of India

4119. CH. JAGDEEP DHANKHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Union Government on providing subsidy, subvention,

grants-in-aid to the Aero Club of India or any other Club affiliated to the Aero Club of India during the last three years;

(b) what has been the utilisation of these funds;

(c) the authority responsible for auditing their accounts; and

(d) how do Government ensure proper utilisation of the funds for the purpose for which these are provided to the Club?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The Central Government sanctioned grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 448 lakhs to the Aero Club of India to cover expenditure on the plan for the development of aerospots in the country. Flying Clubs/Gliding Clubs are not affiliated to, but are members of the Aero Club of India. The Central Government do not provide any subsidy or subvention to the Aero Club of India.

(b) 28 Cessna-152 Trainer aircraft, 10 Winches and 24 Microlight aircraft were procured by the Aero Club of India and allotted to various clubs all over the country. The funds have also been utilised for recurring and non-recurring expenditure of the Project Management.

(c) The Annual accounts of the Aero Club of India are audited by the Chartered Accountants of the Club, the Director of Audit (CW&M) and the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.

(d) To ensure proper utilisation of funds by the Aero Club of India, the following measures have been provided for:—

(i) Grants-in-aid are subject to the terms and conditions prescribed in the General Financial Rules for such grants;

(ii) Grants-in-aid are to be released in

periodic instalments on the basis of actual requirements; and

(iii) Certificate of Utilisation of Funds is to be furnished by the Club.

International Congress on use of Plastics in Agriculture

4120. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Congress representing 25 countries was held in Delhi in the last week of February and the first week of March, 1990 to discuss the use of plastics in the field of agriculture;

(b) if so, the names of the host institutes; and

(c) the details of the issues discussed and the conclusions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Congress was organised by National Committee on the Use of Plastics in Agriculture (NCPA) under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, in association with Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited and other institutes like Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Central Board of Irrigation and Power, etc.

(c) The International Congress discussed the relevant topics like technology transfer, micro irrigation, lining of canals, packaging, surface cover cultivation, greenhouses, etc. A number of valuable recommendations have been made, like setting up of plasticulture information cell, training of scientists and exchange of visits, setting up of centres for development of protected cultivation technologies in different agro-climatic conditions and encouragement of various other plasticulture applications.