

part of the total construction costs. Setting up of building material centres will facilitate access to good quality building materials at competitive prices and improve the quality of construction.

#### **Felling of trees**

3145. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Nav Bharat Times dated 1st July, 1987 under the caption "Paidon Ki Jagah Karkhanan Khada ho gaya";

(b) if so, the action taken by Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Complaints about the working of Air India Office, Kuwait**

3146. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints about the working of Air India Office, Kuwait;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there have been complaints for the last six months of accommodating free passengers by ignoring passengers with confirmed tickets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). A complaint was received from the General Secretary and Acting Chairman of United Malayalee Organisations in Kuwait, which contained complaint against the G.S.A. of Air India and some officers of Air India in Kuwait. When contacted, the Chairman of the United Malayalee Organisations in Kuwait was apologetic that this complaint was made without his knowledge and stated that the complaint had no basis.

(c) and (d). There was a solitary complaint in which it had been reported that a family with confirmed bookings for travel on Air India's flight to Trivandrum could not be accommodated. Investigations revealed that this happened because of overbooking and delayed reporting of the passengers at the airport.

#### **Regarding rise in prices of onion**

3147. SHRI LALITESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI:

DR. G.S. RAJHANS:

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of onions in the market have recently gone up steeply;

(b) whether the officials of the NAFED have blamed the merchants who have deliberately hoarded the onions and thus caused present price rise;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to make available the onions to the consumers at a reasonable price; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON): (a) The information is given in the Statement below.

(b) NAFED is of the view that the main reasons for the increase in the prices of onion are seasonality factor and drought conditions.