

Impounding of Air India Planes

208. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD :
 SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
 SHRIMATI MANORAMA
 SINGH :
 SHRI KAMLA PRASAD
 SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Air India planes found involved in the smuggling of heroin and other articles during the last one year;

(b) the names of the persons found guilty therefore and the action taken against them;

(c) the number of Air India planes impounded by foreign Governments so far for their involvement in this act and the action taken by Government for getting them back; and

(d) the total loss suffered by the Air India so far due to impounding of Air India planes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) One Air India Airbus (A-310) aircraft operating a scheduled flight on Bombay-Nairobi-Lagos route was impounded on 25, August 1987 at Lagos (Nigeria) by the Nigerian authorities. Initially all crew-members were detained. Subsequently, only three crew-members remained under detention. None were found guilty.

After negotiations with an Indian Government delegation the Nigerian authorities released the three crew-members and the aircraft on October 22, 1987.

(d) On account of impounding of the aircraft for 58 days, Air India has suffered an estimated loss of revenue of Rs. 458.90 lakhs.

Scheme for financing and development of plantations

209. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated for financing the plantations for increased cultivation in the plantation sector to meet the domestic and foreign demand;

(b) whether the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development is providing finances for raising cashew plantations which are 100 per cent export oriented; and

(c) whether any study has been undertaken by the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development to assess the potential available in the country for the development of plantations of various types ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development normally does not conduct such studies. However, various commodity Boards for Coconut, Tea, Coffee, Rubber, Spices, etc. undertake studies to assess potential available in the country and to formulate programmes for development of plantations.

Scarcity relief manual

210. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have taken a decision to bring out a revised and updated scarcity relief manual to effectively tackle the problem of natural calamities like drought, flood, snowfall, earthquake etc. in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the manual; and

(c) the modus operandi prescribed and the details of the mechanism to monitor the implementation of steps taken in conformity with the provisions in the manual ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) A Committee has been set up for updating the guidelines for preparation/updating of the existing Relief Manuals of the State Government for rendering effective and timely relief measures in various natural calamities. In accordance with the guidelines to be formulated, State relief manuals would lay down a mechanism for implementation of relief measures.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Drought service plan

211. DR. V. VENKATESH :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHEPATIL :
SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited has formulated its own drought service plan;

(b) whether the IFFCO programme will supplement the plans and schemes of the Centre and the States; and

(c) if so, the broad features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement is given below.

Statement

IFFCO, being essentially an organisation of farmers, is implementing the drought service activities in close collaboration with State Governments for the benefit of the farmers. The salient features of the plan are given hereunder :

1. Short-term activities

These include drinking water arrangements, fodder-supplies, veterinary care, health care, supply of agro-inputs, supply of seeds for growing fodder etc. in the States covered. The total financial outlay is Rs. 80 lakhs.

2. Long-term activities

These include creating irrigation facilities, infra structural facilities for efficient management of water resources and survey of groundwater potential, for which the financial outlay is Rs. 35 lakhs.

3. Coverage

IFFCO service plan will be operative in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, U.P., H.P., M.P. and Maharashtra. The activities will be mostly in and around IFFCO adopted villages and in areas which need immediate attention, as identified in association with the State Government and relief agencies. In the district of Nagaur in Rajasthan, it has been decided to maintain and provide feed to about 100 cowbulls of Nagori breed in order to preserve them for future. Besides, 8500 cattle have been shifted from the district of Kutch to other districts in Gujarat.

4. Progress

In Gujarat, 7 cattle camps have been organised in collaboration with the State Government and other relief agencies. In Rajasthan, 20 fodder supply centres have been opened in different districts. IFFCO will also be growing fodder for distribution mainly to small and marginal farmers.

Oil Palm cultivation

212. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government propose to grow Oil Palm in 50,000 hectares at a cost of Rs. 220 crores;

(b) if so, whether any such proposal has been sent to the Union Government for its approval; and