

- (b) Does not arise.
 (c) No, Sir.
 (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). The maintenance facilities available with Indian Airlines are considered adequate.

[English]

Advice to States for Steps to Contain Prices of Wheat and other Essential Items

4185. SHRI SHANTI LAL PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have cautioned the State Governments against manipulations of unscrupulous manufacturers and traders to push up prices of wheat and other essential food items;

(b) if so, the steps suggested to the States; and

(c) the action taken by State Governments thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) to (c). From time to time particularly since August, 1987, the Central Government has been urging the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to take various measures. They were requested, among other things to take stringent action against hoarders, black marketeers and other anti-social elements for violating the relevant provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations. The State Governments have also been asked to closely monitor the prices and availability of essential commodities at various levels. Dialogue with the representatives of trade and industry at various levels be continued and meetings at regular intervals may be held to urge them to maintain smooth supply line at reasonable prices. It may be ensured that essential commodities sold through fair prices shops reach the consumers for whom these supplies are meant.

On the basis of information received the State Governments and UTs. administra-

tions have generally acted upon these measures. It may be mentioned that as a result of intensive enforcements measures carried out by the State Governments, since, August 1987 and upto 22-8-1988, 1.13 lakhs raids have been carried out in different States and goods valued at more than Rs. 39 crores seized for violating the relevant provisions of the Essential Commodities Act. By and large the supply of essential commodities has been satisfactory all over the country.

M/s. Gulab Singh and Sons

4186. SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of stations where the possession of book stalls were not handed over to Railways by M/s. Gulab Singh and Sons as on 31 May, 1988 as per undertaking given in the Supreme Court; and

(b) the steps being taken to realise the railway dues and to get the book-stalls vacated by M/s. Gulab Singh and sons ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Introduction of River Rafting and Water Sports Facilities

4187. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether river rafting facilities are being introduced in some parts of the country to encourage water sports for tourists;

(b) if so, the places where these facilities are being provided;

(c) whether any place in Kerala has been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and