

**Reduction of customs duty on pesticides, fungicides and weedicides**

861. SHRI B. RACHAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation to reduce customs duty on pesticides, fungicides, weedicides so that these are available to the farmers at reasonable price; and

(b) if so, to what extent the relief is proposed to be given by way of reduction?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). Government had received representations for reduction of customs duty on pesticides, fungicides, weedicides. After taking into account, *inter alia*, the plans for indigenous production and the manufacturers' willingness to pass on the benefit to the ultimate consumer, total incidence of customs duty on Phosalone has been reduced from 75 per cent *ad valorem* to 45 per cent *ad valorem* by issue of an exemption notification on 15-11-1977.

**Norms of airline safety**

862. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the norms of airline safety, with particular reference to pilots; and

(b) the number of pilots each Third-Level Airline' aircraft is likely to have when the scheme is implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) The proficiency requirements as also the privileges of those who hold various categories of flying licences are spelt out in Schedule II of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. These are periodically reviewed and updated.

(b) Number of pilots will depend upon the type of aircraft selected which will be decided only after the finalization of the proposal for the third level operations.

**Survey for Tourist Accommodation Requirements**

863. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the results of the survey conducted at selected centres for making a realistic assessment of tourist accommodation requirements; and

(b) the position of accommodation in respect of Madras and the concrete steps proposed to be taken to augment the accommodation available?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK):

(a) The results of the surveys conducted during 1973—75 at selected centres for assessing tourist accommodation requirements were tentative in nature. However, in order to have a more realistic assessment of tourist accommodation requirements, a country-wide survey is proposed in collaboration with various agencies comprising the Tourism Industry.

(b) Hotel occupancy data being received from approved hotels in Madras do not reveal any shortage of hotel accommodation. However, the proposed survey mentioned in para (a) above will determine the requirements of hotel accommodation for different categories of tourists. The question of augmenting hotel accommodation in Madras can thereafter be considered on the basis of the survey.