

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Competition of Air India in International Market

*125. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India has failed in securing new markets in the world and as a result thereof is incapable to compete in the international field; and

(b) if so, the efforts made in this direction so far and the extent of success achieved therein?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). While the number of passengers carried by Air India has not declined, the airline has not been able to grow at the same rate as the international traffic. This led to a decline in its market share upto 1994.

Air India has taken steps to augment its capacity, expand its network of services and attract more passengers. Its market share for 1995 is 23.1%, an improvement over its share of 20.4% in 1994.

[Translation]

Employment in Agriculture Sector

*126. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decline in the growth rate of employment in Agriculture Sector from 1989 onwards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to augment the growth rate of employment in Agriculture Sector?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). As per estimates of the Planning Commission, there has been no decline in the growth rate of employment in the Agriculture Sector for the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95.

Employment oriented growth strategies for development of the Agriculture Sector is one of the main thrust areas of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The main strategies for augmenting growth of employment in Agriculture as follows:-

- (i) A faster and geographically diversified growth of agriculture, so that the hitherto lagging regions have a larger share in agricultural growth, diversification of agriculture into high

value, more labour intensive crops like vegetables and fruits, particularly in the agriculturally better development regions;

- (ii) Development of infrastructure and marketing arrangements of agro-based and allied activities like, dairy, fishery and sericulture to accelerate growth of these sectors;

- (iii) An expanded programme of development and utilisation of wasteland for crop-cultivation and forestry.

The strategy for development of agriculture with an employment orientation during the 9th Five Year Plan is being worked out in the Ministry of Agriculture through a working Group.

[English]

Pollution Control Measures in SAIL and TISCO

*127. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pollution control measures are inadequate in the Steel Plants under Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO); and

(b) if so, steps proposed/taken by the Government to ensure adequate Pollution Control Measures in these Plants?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO), have taken measures to contain pollution levels within the permissible limit/norms.

All SAIL plants are, by the large, complying with the water pollution norms. In a few areas where air pollution exceeds the norm, SAIL has taken up a time bound Pollution Control Implementation Programme.

TISCO is also meeting the pollution control norms in almost all the areas. As regards water pollution, although TISCO has installed sophisticated Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) plant, it is not complying as yet with Cyanide and ammoniacal nitrogen norms.

(b) SAIL in October, 1992 committed to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, an action plan covering phasewise implementation of 115 pollution control schemes in its five integrated steel works, costing around Rs. 422 crores. 103 schemes have already been completed so far at an expenditure of around Rs. 326 crores. Most of the remaining schemes are scheduled for completion by December, 1996 and the remaining schemes may be completed by 1998.