

Import Duty Burden on Cellular Operators

1775. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 22 cellular operators have urged the Government to sharply lower the overall import duty burden on mobile telephones;

(b) if so, whether any memorandum has been submitted in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Government have considered the memorandum; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) have submitted a position paper highlighting various issues relating to the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service. One of the issue highlighted therein relates to reduction of import duty on cellular handsets.

(c) The paper submitted by COAI are under consideration.

(d) No time limit can be given as several complex issues are involved.

Vacation of PoK

1776. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan have been avoiding talks on vacating Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK);

(b) if so, the details of discussions held on this issue during the past few months and the outcome thereof;

(c) the details of new policy formulated by the Government to get the land vacated from Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) The entire State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the illegal and forcible occupation of Pakistan. Under the Simla Agreement, India is committed to a resolution of all India-Pakistan issues peacefully through direct bilateral discussions.

As part of the composite dialogue process, India and Pakistan held discussions on Jammu and Kashmir on 17th October, 1998 in Islamabad at the level of Foreign Secretaries. India reiterated that the legal status in respect of Jammu and Kashmir was clear and did not admit of any change. We also

drew Pakistan's attention to the plight of the people in that part of the territory of J&K under the illegal occupation of Pakistan.

[*Translation*]

Lifting of Sanctions

1777. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:

SHRI AMARPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries visited by the Prime Minister's special emissary Shri Jaswant Singh after the nuclear explosions;

(b) the agreements reached during his foreign visits; and

(c) whether sanction slapped by various countries have slackened after these visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Shri Jaswant Singh led the Indian delegation to the Fifth ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conferences in Manila. He was a member of the India delegation, led by Prime Minister, to the 10th Summit of Heads of State of SAARC member countries held in Colombo and was a member of the official delegation during Prime Minister's stop-over in Paris on a working visit. As the Special Representative of the Prime Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh has held seven rounds of discussions, as part of the Indo-US Strategic Dialogue with Strobe Talbot, the Special Representative of President Clinton of the United States. These talks were held in Washington, New York, Delhi, Frankfurt and Rome. They are aimed at creating a better appreciation of India's security concerns and an acknowledgement of the voluntary steps announced by India. The discussions have led to a narrowing of gaps of perception.

(c) India has all along maintained that unilateral coercive measures are unjustified, counterproductive and impede the free flow of trade, technology and capital and have an adverse impact on mutually beneficial economic interaction. Government is aware of reports emanating from Washington regarding lifting of some economic restrictions imposed by the United States against India and has noted that, (according to these press reports), it is in recognition of the narrowing of gaps of perception that the United States has lifted some of these measures. Government is of the view that all such measures, particularly those relating to lending by multilateral financial institutions, should be lifted.

[*English*]

Oilseeds

1778. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

SHRI TARACHAND SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there was a shortfall of 2.2 lakh tons of oilseed during the current kharif season;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the shortfall;
- (c) whether the Government propose to formulate a scheme to encourage the production of oilseeds in various States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government propose to provide financial help to farmers under this scheme;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The target of production for oilseeds during kharif season 1998 was 159 lakh tonnes. As against this the advanced estimates of production during kharif 1998 is 142.6 lakh tonnes as compared to 141.5 lakh tonnes in kharif 1997. The main reason for the shortfall of the production is the inclement weather and un-seasonal rains during the harvesting period.

(c) and (d) For encouraging the production of oilseeds in various States, Govt. is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Oilseeds Production (OPP). Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for critical input like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, gypsum/pyrites, micro nutrients and rhyzobium culture etc. to the farmers through State Govts. In addition to this, frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on the farmers' fields to disseminate the improved production and protection technologies. The scheme is in operation in 23 States covering 374 districts.

(e) to (g) As indicated in (c) and (d) above, Govt. is already providing financial assistance to the farmers under this scheme. The details of financial assistance provided to different States during last two years are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Releases under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP)

Statement showing releases made to different States during 1996-97 and 1997-98

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.	State	Release	
		1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1299.67	1502.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	34.32	40.00

	1	2	3	4
3.	Assam		50.00	—
4.	Bihar		74.00	—
5.	Gujarat		666.00	1142.00
6.	Haryana		226.00	296.36
7.	H.P.		10.00	—
8.	J & K		23.32	—
9.	Karnataka		694.85	653.14
10.	Kerala		26.65	50.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh		1590.45	1249.00
12.	Maharashtra		1325.66	1050.00
13.	Manipur		164.00	110.00
14.	Meghalaya		10.00	20.00
15.	Orissa		623.00	500.00
16.	Punjab		40.32	100.00
17.	Rajasthan		1603.53	1650.00
18.	Sikkim		46.66	55.00
19.	Tamil Nadu		894.32	832.50
20.	Tripura		33.32	35.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh		932.32	921.00
22.	West Bengal		200.00	250.00
	Total		10568.39	10456.00

Revenue Earned by Doordarshan/AIR Stations in U.P.

1779. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the total revenue earned by various Doordarshan/Akashwani Kendras in Uttar Pradesh through advertisements during each of the last three years and till date;
- (b) the total amount spent on maintenance and renovation of those centres during the said period separately;
- (c) whether any construction work has been taken up in those Kendras during the said period, separately; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) all India Radio Stations at Lucknow, Allahabad, Kanpur and Banaras and Doordarshan Kendras at Lucknow and Gorakhpur (Since April, 1998) are the revenue earning centres in Uttar Pradesh. The gross commercial revenue earned by these centres in each of the last three years till date is as follows:-