24

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 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 decilined, 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]

Imployment 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 Ariculture 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, daily, 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 schems are scheduled for completion by December, 1996 and the remaining schemes may be completed by 1998.

Plant-wise details of the schemes are as follows:

Plant	No. of schemes planned	No. of schemes Completed			
Bhilai Steel Plant	28	28			
Durgapur Steel Plan	nt 20	17			
Rourkela Steel Plan	it 28	23			
Bokaro Steel Plant	29	27			
Indian Iron and Ste	el				
Company	10	8			
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In addition, all modernisation/technology upgradation schemes provide 10-12% of the outlay for pollution control alone. The progress of the implementation of the schemes is meticulously monitored by the individual plants and Corporate Environment Management Division of SAIL through structured review meetings and site visits. Besides, the progress is also reviewed at the level of Central Pollution Control Board/Ministry of Environment and Forests on quarterly basis when areas requiring attention are identified and the plants are advised to take appropriate action to control pollution.

TISCO has implemented more than 70 schemes, as on 31.3.96, for pollution control at an expenditure of Rs. 166 crores. Compliance reports are submitted by TISCO to CPCB from time to time and CPCB reviews the progress regularly.

Shortage of Edible Oil

- *128. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES. CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Government have authorised the State Trading Corporation to import edible oil for the PDS during February-October, 1996;

- (b) if so, the total edible oil likely to be imported:
- (c) whether the Government have assessed the total requirement of edible oil for 1996-97;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/Union Territory-wise:
- (e) whether there is any shortage of edible oil in the country:
- (f) if so, details thereof, State/Union Territory-wise; and
- (g) the time by which the shortage of edible oil is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES. CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). The State Trading Corporation (STC) has been authorised to import 2.00 lakh MT of RBD Palmolein for the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the period February-October. 1996.

- (c) and (d). The total demand of edible oil for PDS communicated by States/UTs for the months of February-October. 1996 is about 4.22 lakh MTs. The Statewise/monthwise details are indicated in the Statement enclosed.
- (e) and (f). At present there exists a gap of about 7-8 lakh MTs between the total requirement and net availability of edible oils from all domestic sources. There are no restrictions on movement of edible oilseeds and edible oils in the country. The taste preference of the consumers in a particular State/UT is not restricted to the edible oil produced in that region. Hence realistic Statewise demand and supply of edible oils cannot be arrived at now.
- (g) The Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses (TMO and P) is continuing its efforts to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds with the objective of attaining self sufficiency in edible oils.

STATEMENT

Demand of imported palmolein to States/UTs for PDS during 1996.

S.No	States/UTs		Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pr ad esh	D	15000	15000	15000	15000	15000	15000	15000	15000	15000	135000
2.	Arunachal Prd. NR		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	D	300	0	300	0	300	0	0	0	0	900
4.	Bihar	D	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	3 500	31500
5.	Goa	D	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	5400
6.	Gujarat	D	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	9000	9000	9000	63000
7.	Haryana ND	D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	D	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	1800