

According to a spokesman of the Potato Research Centre of the Government of India, during the past three decades, the production of Potatoes in India had grown seven-fold. In acreage, the country occupies the fourth place, while in the field of production, it is the sixth among the potato producing countries in the world

10% of the potatoes produced in India are now surplus while another 10% are wasted due to lack of preservation facilities in cold storages.

A representative of the Centre visited West Asia and Europe last year when it was found that the demand for Indian potatoes in some of the countries was good.

The production of potatoes in the country is on the regular increase. But the producers are not getting even the cost of production due to the fact of its being surplus.

If the number of cold storages can be increased to prevent wastage and potatoes are exported, there will be no difficulty for the country to earn about Rs. 100 crores (Rupees one hundred crores) in foreign exchange and there will also be no dearth of this main food item in the domestic market.)

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take care of the pitiable condition of the potato-growers of the country by making arrangement for the export of the surplus produce which will also help the country in earning about Rs. 100 crores of foreign exchange yearly.

(viii) GROUNDING OF INDIAN AIRLINES PLANE ON 2-4-1982.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai) : The Indian Airlines flight No. 409 Delhi-Lucknow-Patna left Delhi on 2nd April, 1982 at 7 a.m. and landed at Lucknow at 7.45 a.m.) The flight was grounded due to burst of a piece of its tyres. The passengers who were boarded in the aforesaid flight were forced to be stranded helplessly for a number of hours. Two M.P.s and other passengers who were scheduled to catch the Kathmandu flight from Patna were in bewilderment. There was no provision for replacing the tyre of the plane at Lucknow. Again on 24th of March, 1982, Indian Airlines plane coming from Gauhati was detained at Patna for the whole night because the cockpit window was not getting closed. There were neither proper security arrangements nor the control tower was being looked after by any competent authority. This is very un-

fortunate. No attention for remedial measures are being taken in the matter in spite of the fact that hon. Members have drawn the attention of the Minister on the floor of the House.

(ix) REPORTED IMPRISONMENT OF INDIAN NATIONAL IN PAKISTAN.

श्री सत्यनारायण जटिया (उज्जैन) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, पाकिस्तान में दस भारतीय नागरिक जिनमें एक महिला भी सम्मिलित है पिछले 8 सालों से बिना मुकदमा चलाये जेल में बन्द हैं। कैद के दौरान लोगों की आंखों की रोशनी चली गयी है। इन लोगों ने अपनी रिहाई के लिये तथा मानवीय आधाार पर स्वदेश प्रत्यावर्तन के लिये सिन्ध की प्रान्तीय सरकार तथा एमनेस्टी इंटरनेशनल को प्रार्थना पत्र प्रेषित किया है। पाकिस्तान के एक समाचार पत्र के अनुसार उक्त दस भारतीय नागरिक अपने सम्बन्धियों से मिलने के लिये पाकिस्तान में बंध रूप से प्रवेश किये थे किन्तु बिना किसी कारण के उन्हें जेल में डब्रदिया गया है। उन पर न तो कभी मुकदमा चलाया गया और न ही उन्हें उनका कोई अपराध बताया गया है। जिन लोगों को जेल में रखा गया है उनके नाम मोहम्मद चम्प्रीका, श्री हरिनाथ, श्री श्योराम, हैदर, शंकर, शफी, बाबूराम, पीरू, रामा और श्रीमति बदामी। इन में से अन्तिम छः की नेत्र ज्योति चली गयी है।

अतएव मेरा केन्द्र सरकार से आग्रह है कि पाकिस्तान की जेल में बन्द इन भारतीयों की तत्काल रिहाई के प्रयास कर मुक्त कराया जावे।

13.58 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1982-83—Contd.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have already exhausted about half an hour. The balance is 3 hours 34 minutes. The Deputy Minister will intervene at about 2z30 or 3 p. m. and the Minister will reply at 4.30 p.m.