

U.S. Aerospace Trade Mission

8680. DR. BANGALI SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level U.S. aerospace trade mission visited India recently;

(b) if so, the object of this mission; and

(c) the extent to which the visit of the mission has proved useful to the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The objective of the mission was to explore possibilities of trade with India. The visit provided a useful forum for interaction between the two countries.

[English]

Capacity Utilisation by TAFCO

8681. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited, Kanpur has not been utilising the total installed capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the production target for 1989-90 has been achieved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The main reasons for not utilising the full capacity are low productivity of labour, obsolete technology, oil machinery, unremunerative price structure, etc.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The main reasons for not achieving the production target for the year 1989-90 were non-materialisation of the orders for supply of footwear for Defence requirements to the extent anticipated, and delay in commissioning of facilities for the manufacture of Jungle Boots.

Production of Honey

8682. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the steps taken for the promotion of production of honey in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): As far as beekeeping under KVIC is concerned, financial assistance on concessional terms and free technical guidance to state Khadi & Village Industries Boards, registered institutions and beekeepers' cooperatives are extended for the development of beekeeping industry. The assistance is extended in the form of distribution of bee equipment including the bee boxes and honey extractors, setting up of bee nurseries, providing funds to set up medium scale and semi-commercial apiaries, helping introduction of beekeeping in schools and construction of honey houses. KVIC is encouraging bee migration to increase honey production and agro horticultural harvest. Graded courses of training are conducted. Institutions/societies are assisted in marketing of honey including providing working capital loan for purchase of honey from beekeepers. Institutions/cooperatives are also guided in the matter of quality control of honey and ensuring testing facilities. Some of the important research and development efforts to increase the quantity and quality of honey production are:

1. Bee pollination experiments undertaken on ridge gourd, on fenugreek (Methi, Kasturi Methi) and Niger at Bhigwar (Maharashtra) which revealed that bee pollination in-