

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-

creased fruit and seed yield, see weight and quality.

2. A demonstration of the utility of honey bees in increasing production of bitter gourd was successfully organised at Yeola (Maharashtra) and as well as on farmers yield.

[*Translation*]

Claims Cases

8683. SHRI RAMESH BAIS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of compensation paid by the Railways for goods claims during the last three years;

1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Rs. 33.34 crores	Rs 33 81 crores	Rs 30.29 crores

(b) The number of claims preferred on Northern Railway on consignments booked

(b) the number of such claims made annually at New Delhi and Delhi stations;

(c) the names of the claimants who have been paid maximum compensation each year during the last three years;

(d) whether certain institutions are regularly paid such claims every year;

(e) if so, whether Government propose to conduct an enquiry in this regard; and

(f) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The amount of compensation paid by the Railways for loss & damage claims during last three years was as under:

to these stations during last three years was as under:

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
New Delhi:	4705	3926	4926
Delhi	958	1161	1409

(c) Such statistics is not maintained.

[*English*]

(d) Claims are settled on individual merits. Institution-wise records are not maintained.

National Conference on India's Economic Strategies for Nineties

8684. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(e) and (f). Do not arise.