

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:
What about the VIP Squadron in Indian Air Force ?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : Sir, he is talking about the boeing 737 which the Indian Airlines are giving for VIPs use. That has got no concern with this question.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : Sir, he is confusing Air India with A.I.R.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: So far as the 707 is concerned, presently we have phased out two 707s and the other two 707s are going to be phased out, they are going to be handed over to the Air Force and after necessary repairs it will be utilised by them. But regarding other 707s, I said it was being run on different routes like Delhi-Moscow. Now, we are going to run it to Birmingham. So, these routes will be covered by 707 Boeings and they will continue till such time as they have got their life.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Sir, a couple of days back, we read in the newspapers that some of these aircrafts will be replaced by Tristar aircrafts. This has been in principle agreed to by the management of the Indian Airlines and the Air India International. May I know whether the management proposes to replace these 707 Boeings with these Tristar aircrafts or the old version of 737 boeings?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : I said earlier in answer to the main question that there is a Committee working on this question and it is correct that not only the Tristar aircrafts but D-C 10 and Air Bus are under the consideration of the Committee. These are the three types of aircrafts which are under the consideration of the Committee.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: Sir, there is much to be desired with regard to the maintenance of our aircrafts. Whatever steps are to be taken should be done with the cooperation of the technical staff. That is why they have very short life when compared to those obtaining in other countries. Even the log books where the complaints are written are not attended to for weeks and months together. I have myself seen these log books of the Air India. Will the hon. Minister kindly take action with regard to the maintenance of these aircrafts and see that the defects that are mentioned in the log books are attended to immediately? Secondly, even the emergency exit in the 707 Boeings or in the Jumbo is cramped with luggage and other packages. As per rule, it is not allowed that the

luggages could be stored in the exit way. This will affect the smooth running of the aircraft and also working of the cabin crew. There are certain genuine difficulties faced by the Air India cabin crew about which the hon. Minister was informed sometime back. You are aware I am connected with the Cabin Crew Association. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the genuine grievances of the cabin crew. Will you please attend to all their genuine grievances with regard to the maintenance and up-keep of the Aircraft and also difficulties experienced by them in their working in the aircrafts?

SHRI A.P. SHARMA: As regards entry in the log book, so far as the technical defects are concerned, they are not only looked into by the Technicians but they are also supervised by the supervisors after the defects are attended to. But if there is any specific case which the hon. Member has got in view, well I will be happy to look into it. But generally our technical people are quite efficient and they look into the technical defects. As far as the grievances of the Cabin crew are concerned, I may mention that my hon. friend is well aware of the problems and a number of times he had informally discussed them with me also. Those problems are attended to and we do want that our people should be satisfied in so far as their working conditions, their salaries and their facilities are concerned. But at the same time we have been having some problems recently. In certain cases, it has been brought to our notice that our Cabin Crew had even gone to the extent of refusing to serve food to the passengers on ground. Now, if the service to the passengers which is the main job of the cabin crew is affected, what for are they there. I have asked them politely when they came to me that if they do not serve the passengers what else they are to do there. I am quite happy that they have realised it now and I hope that they will continue to render service to the travelling passengers.

Rise in the prices of Edible Oils

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*174 SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:
SHRI D. P. JADEJA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of edible oils have gone up recently;

(b) if so, reasons therefor and

(c) what steps Government are considering to take to check this rise and make

the edible oils easily available in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c). During the past 3 months, i.e. November, 1980 to January, 1981, there had been a certain rise in the wholesale price indices of indigenous edible oils like groundnut oil, gingelly oil, kardi oil, cottonseed oil, etc. During the same period the price indices of mustard oil and coconut oil had shown decline. From the week ending 20-2-1981 there has been a general decline in the prices of edible oils.

The recent rise in edible oil prices may be mainly attributed to fall in the production of edible oilseeds in 1979-80.

The shortfall in production encouraged speculative forces to operate contributing to the bullish tendencies in oil prices.

The Government have taken several long-term as well as short-term steps to improve availability of edible oils in the country. Some of the important measures taken are (i) encouraging production of oilseeds and planned effort to exploit non-traditional sources so as to reduce the gap between demand and supply of oils, (ii) continuing imports of adequate quantity of oil, (iii) release of more oils for public distribution system, (iv) voluntary price discipline by vanaspati industry, (v) maintaining steady production of vanaspati, (vi) encouraging production of more cottonseed oil, (vii) requesting State Governments to enforce storage control orders and other enactments, (viii) removal of restrictions on movement of groundnut and oil by Gujarat Government, and (ix) curbing illegal trading in oilseed and oils by the Forward Markets Commissions through periodical raids.

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Every week we see in the newspapers the price position. We see the fluctuations in the prices of essential commodities. We find the edible oil sold at a particular price to day, tomorrow at higher price and day after tomorrow at still higher price. The hon. Minister's reply is not clear as to how the prices should be brought to a stable level. He has not said anything about the control on the fluctuations. Secondly, it appears that these fluctuations in prices are due to

hoarding. The hon. Minister has not given any assurance to stop these hoardings. Will the hon. Minister kindly explain this point ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : To an extent hoarding can play a part. But the public distribution system is a corrective measure for distributing edible oil in a proper manner, in a regulated manner. It also discourages hoarders. But if the oil is available at lesser prices to the people, then the hoarders do not benefit from hoarding. Therefore, we do our best to discourage hoarding. But to a certain extent the hoarding takes place and in that case it cannot really be helped.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

Creation of Leave Reserve Posts of Income-tax Inspectors

*168. **SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for creation of Leave Reserve Posts of Income-tax Inspectors in the Income-tax Department;

(b) whether Government have taken a decision in the matter ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by which time the Leave Reserve posts in the Income-tax Inspectors' Cadre are likely to be sanctioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA) : (a) to (c). A proposal for creation of leave reserve posts of Inspectors is under consideration.

(d) It is difficult to say when the final decision would be taken.

Regional imbalance after Nationalisation

*169. **SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) is it a fact that 23 districts of the total in the country, get about 66 per cent of the total bank credit i. e. about Rs. 619 crores on an average while