पश्चिम एशिया के देशों को घटिया बासमती चावल का कथित निर्यात

*76. श्री रामधारी शास्त्री : क्या वाणिज्य, नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या 21 जनवरी, 1979 के "हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स" में प्रकाशित उस समाचार की ओर उनका ध्यान गया है जिसमें कहा गया है कि पंजाब के व्यापारियों ने पश्चिम एशिया के देशों को घटिया किस्म के बासमती चावल का निर्यात किया जिसके परिणामस्वरूप उन देशों ने भारत से चावल न खरीदने का निर्णय किया है ;

(ख) इस मामले में सरकार द्वारा क्या उपचारात्मक कार्यवाही की जा रही है ; और

(ग) पश्चिम एशिया के बाजार में भारतीय चावल के निर्यात में वृद्धि करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही करने का प्रस्ताव है ?

वाणिज्य नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आरिफ बेग) : (क) सरकार को उस समाचार की जानकारी है जिसमें यह बताया गया है कि आयातकों ने पंजाब के बासमती चावल को पाकिस्तानी बासमती चावल की अपेक्षा घटिया पाया । यह सच है कि पाकिस्तानी चावल के चिरकालीन सुस्थापित बाजार होने से उसे भारतीय बासमती चावल की तुलना में ऊंची कीमत मिलती है । पश्चिम एशियाई देश भारत से बासमती चावल के प्रमुख आयातक रहे हैं और हमारे निर्यात प्रभावित नहीं हुए हैं ।

(ख) बासमती चावल के सम्बन्ध में न्यूनतम निर्यात कीमत निर्धारित कर दी गई है और इन निर्यातों को निर्यात (क्वालिटी नियंत्रण व निरीक्षण) अधिनियम, 1963 के अधीन लाने की प्रस्थापना है । इससे सुनिश्चित करना है कि बासमती के साथ घटिया क्वालिटी का चावल न मिल पाये ।

(ग) भारत पश्चिम एशियाई देशों को चावल का निर्यात करता रहा है । बासमती चावल के साथ अन्य किस्मों के चावल भी निर्यात किये जा रहे हैं और निर्यातों को बढ़ाने के लिए ठोस कदम उठाये गये हैं ।

Cuddapah Airstrip

*77. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to improve the airstrip at Cuddapah; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to develop it into a full blown airport?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Cuddapah, however, figures in the list of candidate stations recommended by an Expert Committee for the Third Level Operations, a scheme for which is at present, under the consideration of the Government.

Rise in prices of Gold

*78. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether prices of gold in the country touched a new high in the month of January, 1979;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the rise in prices of gold is also attributable to cornering of the gold auctioned by the Reserve Bank of India by a few interested parties;

(d) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard and with what result;

(e) what is the percentage of rise in the prices of gold month-wise since April, 1978; and

(f) what steps Government have taken to maintain the prices of gold in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) The maximum price of gold in Bombay in January, 1979 was Rs. 925/- per 10 gms. on 30th and 31st. It is lower than the maximum price of Rs. 960/- per 10 gms. on 17.10.78 which is the highest so far. But the average prices for the month of January, 1979

was Rs. 891/- per 10 gms. which is higher than average prices for earlier months.

(b) The rise in January, 1979 would appear to be due to (1) good demand from South, (2) paucity of stocks, and (3) rise in international price.

(c) No Sir, Surveys conducted by the Gold Control authorities in regard to the gold purchased in the auctions do not indicate that it has been cornered by a few dealers.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The percentage rise in the price of gold over the average price in April, 1978 (Rs. 685/- per 10 gms.) and also month-wise average are as below:—

Month	% rise over April prices	% rise months-wise
May, 1978	0·88	0·88
June, 1978	(—)0·15	(—)1·01
July, 1978	(—)0·58	(—)0·44
August, 1978	7·30	7·93
September, 1978	11·82	4·22
October, 1978	23·80	10·70
November, 1978	21·02	(—)2·24
December, 1978	21·90	0·72
January, 1979	30·07	6·72

(f) The Government is keeping the situation under watch. The Government has also appointd a Committee to review the gold policy in all its aspects and make appropriate recommendations.

Interest Free Loans taken by Directors of Pure Drinks Pvt. Ltd.

*79. SHRI SARAT KAR: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) for how many years have the directors of Pure Drinks Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi been taking interest free loans from the company;

(b) how much interest has been lost by the company and how much have the directors gained;

(c) has the Income Tax Department collected tax on the interest benefits to the directors, if not, why not; and

(d) how much loans or advances have the directors taken from other companies in which they are directors or shareholders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) The directors of M/s. Pure Drinks Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, have been having credit balance with the company for the past ten years execpt in the case of Shri Charanjit Singh who had debit balances of Rs. 32,736 and 49,290 for assessment years 1969-70 and 1972-73 respectively. The company is neither charging any interest on debit balances nor paying interest on credit balances.