

[Translation]

Air-Conditioned Taxis

1471. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study regarding the structure of taxi and other transport facilities available in the development countries for the benefit of tourists;

(b) the steps, if any, being taken up by the Government to encourage the institutionalised air-conditioned taxis and other vehicles;

(c) whether the era of liberalisation, a liberal licensing policy has been formulated for air-conditioned taxis and other vehicles;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) Some steps taken to improve tourist transport sector are:

1. To encourage setting up of Rent-A-Car industry under the foreign collaboration scheme of the Secretariat of Industrial Approvals, Ministry of Industry.

2. Approved Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators and hoteliers allowed import of air-conditioned cars/coaches at a concessional rate of customs duty.

3. To facilitate interstate tourist transport in India, tax structure rationalised under the All India Permit for Tourist Transport Operators Amendment Rules, 1993.

However, no study has been conducted regarding the structure of taxi and other transport facilities available in the developed countries.

[English]

Mineral Export from Gujarat

1472. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of minerals exported from Gujarat during each of the last three years;

(b) the income earned by the State Government thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for the development of the mining industry in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The main minerals exported from Gujarat are bauxite and salt. State-wise export statistics are not maintained.

(c) The National Mineral Policy announced in March, 1993 has dereserved all the 13 minerals which were hitherto exclusively reserved for exploitation by the public sector. The minerals so dereserved are iron ore, manganese, chrome, sulphur, gold, diamond, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, nickel and platinum group of minerals.

Consequential amendment in the Mines and Minerals

(Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 have been enacted. Any company registered in India as defined in Sub-Section-I of the Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is eligible for grant of Prospecting Licence and Mining Lease in respect of minerals. More powers have been delegated to State Governments to facilitate mineral development.

These changes have been made to attract private investment both domestic and foreign and latest state of art technology in the mineral sector so as to speed up the pace of mineral development in the country.

[Translation]

Employment

1473. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare the right to employment as a fundamental right;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the necessary legislation will be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Ceiling on Export of Seeds

1474. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed ceiling on the grant of permits for export of some varieties of seeds in 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details of varieties of seeds for which there is a quantitative ceiling with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to liberalise the present policy or undertake a periodic review to eliminate such quantitative ceiling or total ban on export; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Certain specified seeds and planting materials featuring at serial No. 20, of Part-II, Chapter XVI, of the Export & Import Policy 1992-97 are restricted items which can be exported only under licence.

Exports of seeds, which are treated as commodities such as HPS groundnut, sesame and safflower are allowed freely, while export of niger seed is canalised through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED). Tribal Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). Export licences were issued for 21,000MTs of castor seed in 1993-94; in 1994-95, such