

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Government has received a communication from Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) in which they have sought for the continuation of reliefs and concessions available under the guidelines on parameters for provision of reliefs/concessions by banks under rehabilitation packages evolved for non-SSI sick/weak industrial units considered as potentially viable issued in December 1991 by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

RBI has reported that its parameters on interest rates for various facilities under rehabilitation packages in respect of non small scale industrial (SSI) sick/weak industrial units were last revised in December 1991. These rates were prescribed at fixed percentage points below the prevailing minimum lending rate for banks, obviating the need for changing the parameter whenever there was revision in lending rate on advances. Subsequent to issue of circular in this regard on 06.12.1991, significant developments had taken place. These, inter alia, included lowering of the minimum lending rate of banks, reduction in period of indentifying sickness, revision in the definition of weak non SSI unit, abolition of minimum lending rate and introduction of prime lending rates by banks. Keeping in view the developments RBI has made changes in the requirements of promoters contribution and in its parameters on interest rates for various facilities under rehabilitation packages, inter alia including working capital advances, funded interest term loan, working capital term loan and fresh rehabilitation term loan.

Jute Growers

5508. SHRI SHOBHANADREESWARA RAO
VADDE :

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- whether the Union Government have announced the minimum support price of raw jute for 1995-96;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the economic condition of the jute growers is pitiable; and
- if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the economic conditions of the jute growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). On the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) the Government have fixed Minimum Support price (MSP) of TD-5 grade raw jute grown in Assam at Rs. 490 a quintal for 1995-96 jute season. Corresponding MSP for all grades and varieties of jute for various up country markets in different jute growing states are to be fixed by the Jute Commissioner.

(c) and (d). The jute growers have generally obtained remunerative Prices for their produce since market prices are ruling above MSP. However, the Government have taken various steps to protect the interests of farmers which inter-alia included announcement of MSP for raw jute, advising JCI to undertake price support operation if necessary, Implementation of Special Jute Development Programme to provide farmers with essential inputs, development of improved farm equipments and retting techniques as well as retting tanks in addition to carrying out demonstration and training of farmers in improved agricultural practices.

Operation by Foreign Airlines

5509. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

- the criteria being adopted by the Government to permit foreign airlines for operating flights in the country;
- the names of the airlines which are operating national/ international flights and the number of flights operated by them in a week;
- the number of places amongst them where flights by Air India and Indian Airlines are also being operated;
- whether Indian air services are not taking full benefit of their share;
- if so, the reasons therefor;
- whether the Government would permit Indian Airlines to operate overseas flights involving short distances to cover up this loss;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Traffic rights to foreign airlines for international operations are granted on the basis of reciprocity, keeping in view the demands of tourism, travel and international trade.

(b) and (c). Foreign Airlines are not granted traffic rights on domestic sectors. the requisite information in regard to international operations is given in the attached statement.

(d) and (e). Due to constraints of aircraft capacity and operating crew as well as lack of adequate traffic potential on certain routes, the Indian carriers are presently, not utilising their full entitlements.

(f) to (h). Indian Airlines is already operating services to Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Oman, U A. E., Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.