

[Translation]

### Flights from Calicut Airport

3099. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian Airlines/Air India/private Airlines flights operating to and from Calicut Airport daily;

(b) whether a section of passengers from Calicut Airport are being given special facilities over and above normal facilities extended to passengers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the charges if any, paid of such services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) There are eight daily flights to and from Calicut apart from some flights on certain days in a week from Calicut. Indian Airlines operates one flight daily to Bangalore, one flight daily to Bombay, one flight daily to Madras and also connects Coimbatore, Madurai and Goa. On the International side one daily flight is operated to Sharjah by Indian Airlines which also operates flights to Fujairah, Kuwait and Ras-al-Khaimah. Air India flights to Muscat and Abu-Dhabi are operated daily through Indian Airlines aircraft as a joint venture. East West Airlines and Jet Airways operate one flight each daily from this airport.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

### Export of Agricultural Products by MMTC

3100. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. has made any plan for import and export of agricultural products and inputs required for agricultural sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). MMTC is exporting agricultural products like soyabean meal, rice and castor seed. Agricultural inputs like Urea and DAP are being imported by MMTC. It also has plans to import pulses.

### Beedi Workers of Gujarat

3101. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding the number of workers engaged in the

Beedi Industry in certain States particularly in the tribal and backward areas of Gujarat State till September 30, 1995;

(b) the number of identity card holders and non-identity card holders among them as on September, 1995, separately;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to liberate them from the harassment/oppression of contracts system;

(d) the rate on which Tendu (ebony) leaf is made available to the Beedi workers in the country particularly in the tribal areas of the Gujarat State and the rate of daily wages paid to them;

(e) whether the Government are aware of irregularities being committed by major industrialists to escape from cess on Beedi; and

(f) if so, the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Due to peculiar conditions prevailing in the beedi industry, it is not feasible to abolish contract labour system. The State Government have been requested to ensure strict implementation of the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and setting up. Tripartite Committees to standardise issue of raw material etc. to prevent exploitation of beedi workers.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f). Stringent anti-evasion measures and frequent surprise checks are conducted by the Central Board of Excise and Customs and penalty is imposed wherever considered necessary after issue of show cause notice.

### Trade Agreement with France

3102. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of France for joint exports with India in products where both the countries have comparative advantage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether France is also willing for expanding trade opportunities in different parts of the country jointly;

(d) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard with the Government of France;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?