

(a) whether any representation has been received from any State Government either to waive the 25 per cent excise duty on diesel or due subsidy be given to transport corporations or companies; and

(b) if so, the nature of representation and Government's response to it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA):

(a) High speed diesel oil is subject to specific rate of excise duty and not to *ad valorem* rate. No representation for waiver of the excise duty on high speed diesel oil appears to have been received from any State Government.

(b) Dose not arise.

Increase in import duty on Edible Oils

831. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that import duty on edible oils recently been increased;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) how far it is likely to escalate the prices of edible oils including Vanaspati in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA):

(a) to (c): Yes Sir. On 18-7-1981, the rate of duty on Palm oil, Rapeseed oil, Soyabean oil, Sunflower oil and Palmolein was raised from 12.5 per cent *ad valorem* to 42.5 per cent *ad valorem*. The same day, the duty on coconut oil was also raised from 60 per cent

ad valorem to 80 per cent *ad valorem* (basic+auxiliary). On 26-7-1981 the Customs Ta-iff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1981 was promulgated. Simultaneously, the effective rates of duty on all vegetable oils (excepting Rapeseed oil and Soyabean oil) covered by Heading No. 15.07 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 was raised to 150 per cent *ad valorem* (basic+auxiliary). The effective rate of duty on rapeseed oil and soyabean oil was also fixed at 45 per cent *ad valorem* (basic + auxiliary). These changes have been made having regard to the international and local market prices of vegetable oils.

(d) As the concessional rate of duty of 5 per cent *ad valorem* applicable to imports made by the State Trading Corporation of India continues to operate, the prices of vegetable oils supplied through the public distribution system and vanaspati are not likely to be affected by the changes in duties mentioned above

Inquiry into AI's "Makalu"

832. SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN :
SHRI CHHOTAY SINGH YADAV :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SH. RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI :
SHRI B. D. SINGH :
SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR :
SH. MANI RAM BAGRI :
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

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

(a) whether inquiry ordered by Government into the Air India "Makalu" sabotage has been completed ;

(b) if so, whether any report has been submitted to Government ; if so, details thereof and action proposed to be taken by Government thereon ; and

(c) if answer to Part (a) above be in the negative, what is the present position ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA) (a) to (c) : Investigation has been completed and a charge-sheet has been filed on 17-6-1981 in the court of the Additional Metropolitan Magistrate, Bombay against Shri S. P. Inamdar, an employee of Air India who was working as Senior Aircraft Technician Component Overhaul Division. The matter is subjudice.

Purchase of Jute

834. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
SHRI R. P. DAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) how much jute has been purchased by the Jute Corporation of India since March, 1981 to date month-wise ;

(b) at what cost and whether all jute has been purchased by the JCI from the jute growers ; and

(c) if so the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) According to information so far available monthwise purchases of raw jute, made by Jute Corporation of India from March,

1981 upto 8th August, 1981 are as under :—

Qty. 000 bales of 18) Kgs.

Month	Qty. purchased
March	2.7
April	2.8
May	—
June	—
July	0.5
August (upto 8-8-81)	5.7

(b) and (c) : The purchases during above period were made from growers at statutory minimum prices, except for a small quantity of 128 bales which was procured in March, 1981 from non growers in Orissa. Statutory minimum prices at which above purchases were made are given below :—

(Year July-June)	State/District	Variety	Purchase price (Rs. Qtls.) WS/TDS/ Mesta Bottom
1980-81	Orissa/Koraput	Koraput	144.50
	A.P./Vizianagaram	Mesta Bimll	149.50
1981-82	Assam	White	175.00
	Bihar/Purnea	White	185.00
		Katihar	Tossa
	West Bengal/) Coochbehar)	White	182.00
	Jalpaiguri) Darjeeling)		
24-Parganas	Tossa	201.50	

Sick Textile Units in Gujarat

835. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that paucity of funds has affected most textile mills in Gujarat and the State