

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). A total of 120 outbound flights and 113 inbound flights were operated from Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Madras to Saudi Arabia and back for transportation of Haj Pilgrims during Haj, 1996.

The Haj Pilgrim fare for the round trip was fixed by the Government at Rs.19,640.00 which includes a subsidy of Rs.7640 per Haj pilgrim.

[English]

Sales Tax/Corporate Tax

2447. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Super Bazar Consumer Society was asked to pay Rs.90.00 lakh as sales tax/corporate tax which has been outstanding for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) the taxable earning of the Super Bazar during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the demand made by the sales tax authority; and

(e) the stage at which dispute stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). It has been reported by the Super Bazar Delhi that assessment of sales tax of Super Bazar has been completed upto 1992-93 and income tax upto 1993-94. It has also been reported that they do not have any pending tax liabilities.

(c) It has been reported by the Super Bazar, that they do not have taxable earnings.

(d) It has been reported by the Super Bazar that during the last three years they have paid sales tax as detailed below and they have not received any demand from the Sales Tax Authorities :-

Year	Sales Tax paid (Rs. in lakhs)
1992-93	150.18
1993-94	182.24
1994-95	215.60

(e) Does not arise.

Airport in Kerala

2448. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new Airport being constructed in Kerala has suffered a set back;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken to speed-up the construction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Backward Classes

2449. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the development of backward classes in comparison to SCs/STs during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government propose to give representation to backward classes in Parliament and State Legislature like SCs/STs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The following steps have been taken by the Government for the development of backward classes :-

(i) As in the case of SC/STs, 27% reservation is provided to OBCs in Civil Posts and Services under the Government of India in direct recruitment.

(ii) OBC candidates are given the benefit of relaxed standard in respect of written examination and interviews as in the case of SC/ST candidates.

(iii) The upper age limit for OBC candidates in direct recruitment has been increased by 3 years as against 5 years given to SC/ST candidates.

(iv) The number of attempts for OBC candidates who are otherwise eligible has been increased to 7 in respect of Civil Services examinations.

(v) As in the case of SC/ST a Commission viz. National Commission for Backward Classes has been set up under the NCBC Act, 1993.

(vi) As in the case of SC/ST, a financial Corporation, viz. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) has been set up to promote economic activities for the benefit of backward classes and to assist the poorer sections of these classes in skill development and self-employment ventures.

- (vii) As in the case of SC/STs, the Government has implemented a scheme called the Pre-Examination Coaching for weaker sections including minorities and OBCs.

(b) and (c). No, Sir, there is no such proposal at present.

[English]

Allocation of Foodgrains

2450. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether off take of foodgrains out of total foodgrains allotted under the Public Distribution System for the tribals and drought prone areas has been less than 50% during the last financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to make some changes in the system of fixing quotas of foodgrains for States under the Public Distribution System;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of about 103.68 lakh tonnes of wheat & rice allocated for Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in about 1775 identified blocks consisting of hilly, drought prone remote, and tribal areas, the quantity lifted by the States/UTs was about 43 lakh tonnes in 1995-96. Hence the off take under RPDS during 1995-96 against the allocation was about 41.5%.

(c) to (e). As per the existing practice the allocation of wheat & rice for the Public Distribution System (PDS) is made for States/UTs on month to month basis according to the local availability, production, off-take trend, relative needs, etc. The allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs is supplemental in nature and is not meant for the entire need of any State/UT. In so far the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) is concerned the allocation is normally made @ 20kg. per family per month. Final decision to make changes in the system has not been taken so far.

Licences to New Sugar Factories

2451. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of applications received from the Government of Karnataka for issue of licences for new sugar Factories and also for issue of licences for expansion during the last two years till date;

(b) the number of applications approved under both the categories, separately;

(c) the number of applications pending, alongwith the reasons for their pendency; and

(d) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) and (b). 56 applications were received through the Ministry of Industry, Deptt. of Industrial Policy and promotion for grant of letters of intent/industrial licences for setting up of new sugar factories & 9 applications for expansion in the existing units during the last two years, i.e., 1994 and 1995 (January to December). Out of 56 proposals for new sugar factories, 15 have been approved and all the 9 proposals of expansion have been approved.

(c) and (d). As on 30.6.1996, 13 applications received through the Ministry of Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion for grant of letters of intent/industrial licences for setting up of new sugar factories were pending consideration of the screening committee of the Ministry of Food.

It is not possible, at present, to specify any time frame in this regard.

[Translation]

Blackmarketing of Wheat, Rice and Sugar

2452. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Fair Price Shopkeepers caught red handed while blackmarketing good quality wheat, rice and sugar during each of the last three years and current year State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the value of goods seized therefrom during the above period State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons apprehended for blackmarketing; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check such blackmarketing?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) and (b) Functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) is a vast operation involving distribution of millions of tons of foodgrains, sugar, edible oil, kerosene