

Lifting of aviation fuel by Indian Airlines

770. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the advice of the Director-General of Civil Aviation, the Indian Airlines has suspended lifting of aviation fuel of Indian Oil Corporation for its aircraft from eight airports of the country;

(b) whether the fuel supplied by the Indian Oil Corporation at these eight airports is found to be contaminated with high content of sulphur; and

(c) if so, what arrangements are made to prevent suspension of operations at these airports?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines reported that tests carried out of samples of aviation fuel collected from some airports indicated the possibility of high sulphur content. The advice of the Director General of Civil Aviation was sought for who, after test at the laboratory of the Civil Aviation Department, confirmed this. As a result, Indian Airlines suspended lifting of aviation fuel supplied by Indian Oil Corporation at eight airports in the country.

(c) Arrangements were made by Indian Oil Corporation for alternative supply of aviation fuel at these airports. For the interim period extra fuel was carried by the aircraft from previous stations.

Warning to Textile Industry for reviewing its policy towards rise in the price of cloth

771. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Textile Industry has been warned to review its policy

of increasing the price of cloth, which is likely to lead to an intensive consumer resistance; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the textile industry thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). At present 30 per cent of the production of cotton cloth in mill sector is under price control and there is no question of industry increasing the prices beyond the fixed levels. As regards production outside price control, mills had earlier announced reduction in prices of cloth but more recently they have again raised the prices. The price rise is stated to be on account of increase in the cost of raw materials, wages, power cuts etc. Government's concern about this latest price rise has been conveyed to the Indian Cotton Mills Federation and their reaction is awaited.

Guidelines to States for implementation of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act

772. SHRI MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided by the Central Government to circulate guidelines to States to ensure uniformity in standards and approach in the exercise of powers under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention and Smuggling Activities Act; and

(b) if so, the salient features of these guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The guidelines are meant to ensure uniformity in standards and approach in the field of detention under the COFRPOSA Act 1974 as a supplement to other anti-smuggling measures.