

State Governments and Union Territories Administration, inter-alia, requesting for considering abolition of Sales Tax (ST) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

(c) Reply has been received from 13 State Governments and one Union Territory Administration which is summarised below:—

State Govt./U.T. Admn.	Reply	
1	2	3
01. Andhra Pradesh :	Has exempted from payment of ST on ATF for airlines having passenger capacity of less than 50 and touching any airport other than Hyderabad in that State;	
02. Maharashtra :	Has exempted all the domestic airlines from payment of ST on ATF for operating to places other than Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur and Aurangabad in that State for the period 1.6.1996 to 31.1.2001 and Span Aviation (M) Pvt. Ltd. for operating to any place in the State other than Mumbai for the period of 1.4.1997 to 31.3.2002.	
03. Madhya Pradesh :	Has exempted only air taxi operators;	
04. Mizoram :	Has not started imposition of ST on ATF;	
05. Nagaland :	Has no objection to abolish ST on ATF;	
06. West Bengal :	Is not in favour of abolition of ST on ATF but is considering waiver of Sales Tax for M/s Bengal Air Services Ltd;	
07. Andaman & Nicobar Island Admn :	Has not levied ST on ATF.	
08. Assam :] Have not agreed to abolish ST on ATF mainly	
09. Delhi :		
10. Haryana :		

1	2	3
11. Manipur :] on account of resource crunch.	
12. Rajasthan :		
13. Tamil Nadu :		
14. Tripura :		

Water Shed Development

*80. SHRI R.S. GAVALI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPOLYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to merge existing three watershed programme presently being run by different departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether States are demanding regularisation of Central earmarking norms for watershed developments; and

(d) if so, the action proposed by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Committee constituted to consider the merger of various schemes under the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment regarding watershed development has submitted its report recommending:—

(i) Combined Watershed Development Programme by merging Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Projects (IWDP) and entrusting to the Department of Wastelands Development for implementation.

(ii) Funds earmarked for DPAP, DDP and IWDP scheme should be transferred to the common pool for combined Watershed Development Programme.

(iii) Rupees 100 crores should be transferred out of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) fund under Central Share to the combined watershed development programme.

(c) and (d) The Government of Madhya Pradesh desired that the cost of a Watershed Project in both the Eco-Systems viz. Semi Arid and Dry Sub-Humid Areas

under DPAP should be the same i.e. Rs. 20.00 lakhs instead of the present cost of Rs. 15.00 lakhs in case of Dry-Humid Areas and Rs. 20.00 lakhs in Semi Arid Areas. The proposal has not been accepted as differential cost norms have been fixed in DPAP for different Eco-systems based on the extent of moisture stress, vegetation cover, problems of soil erosion and receding ground water.

The Government of Rajasthan proposed that there should be no separate funding of projects exclusively for Sand Dune Stabilisation and Shelter Belt Plantation as these activities do not fit into the present strategy of developing small watersheds of 500 hectares. The proposal has been accepted and in ten districts of the State which are facing the problem of shifting Sand Dunes, 50% funds allocated under DDP to the districts will now be exclusively utilised on projects for Sand Dunes Stabilisation and Shelter Belt Plantation.

Land Reclamation

691. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of principles and guidelines considered at present by the Union Government for land reform in the country;

(b) the details of present land-man relation in the rural area; and

(c) the guidelines issued from the Centre in 1950s and 1960s to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) The policy and principle of management of land including controlling the rights in or over land, land tenure including the relation of landlord and the tenant and the collection of rent, transfer and alienation of agricultural land, land improvement, colonization etc. being subject matter under exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments as per Entry No. 18 of List II, VIIth Schedule of the Constitution, the Central Government has only played advisory and coordinating role in the matter of land reforms since Independence. In 1950s and 1960s, the Planning Commission in its Document specified certain objectives to be achieved through various legislative and administrative measures to be taken by the State Governments. As a matter of national consensus, the programme of reclamation of interim rights and introduction of family ceiling on agricultural holdings were introduced during 1950s and 1960s. However, the quantum of land allowed to be retained and treatment

towards the tenants/sharecroppers remained different in different parts of the country. It has always been left to the best judgement of the States to decide on the relation of tenant and landlord, ceiling on agricultural holdings of different categories of land and even the legal approach towards alienation of tribal land. Therefore, the present land-man relation in rural areas is different in different parts of the country.

Air Intrusion

692. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of Pakistan Military aircraft violating international air space norms along the Indo-Pakistan border has been increasing;

(b) if so, the number of times the Pakistan violated this norm during this year, month-wise; and

(c) the action initiated from Indian side thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The IAF has observed that there has been no appreciable change in number of violations of Indian air space by the Pakistan Military Aircraft. However, there has been increase in committing breaches of the bilateral agreement of Prevention of Air Space Violations by Pakistan. The month-wise details are attached as statement.

(c) These incidents are taking up with the Pakistan Government conveying our deep concern and impressing upon it the need to take steps to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

Statement

Month-wise Details of Breach of Air Agreement by Pak Aircraft

Sl. No.	Month	No. of Incident
1	2	3
1.	January 98	15
2.	February 98	09
3.	March 98	08
4.	April 98	03