

I would like to know what action the Government proposes to take in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, we are not following any pick and choose policy. We are not allowing any particular sugar mill to sell sugar through discretionary quota. Last months we allowed all the Sugar mills in the country to sell sugar over and above their usual quota of 30 percent of free sale. We had granted this permission. At present we are not considering the demand of various mills for pick and choose.

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of the farmers is going from bad to worse because they depend only on nature. If nature is kind to them, their condition improves. To ameliorate the lot of the farmers, we should give agriculture the status of an industry. We should fix the minimum price of sugar, as is done in the case of wheat and rice. Will agriculture be given the status of an industry?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : This question does not arise from the original question.

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, sugar policy is under discussion. In Maharashtra, one sugar mill pays to a farmer at the rate of Rs.450 per metric tonne while the other pays at the rate of Rs.850 per metric tonne. Thus the price differs from place to place. Why is it so?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, I have already clarified that we have statutory minimum price. We have fixed the price of Sugar at the national level at Rs.9.05. They are the cooperative mills. In Maharashtra, there are 110 mills. Of them, 104 are cooperative mills... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : In Maharashtra, there are not 410 mills. The hon. Minister is giving wrong information.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the sugar policy of the Government is going to come and, I am sure, it will be a very sweet policy. We have a very sweet festival in Kerala called 'Onam'. You know, Sir, that Kerala is lacking in sugar. My very short question is whether the hon. Minister can give some additional sugar to Kerala at a very low price during the 'Onam' Festival which is going to come shortly.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, we are not providing additional sugar to any state separately. But we shall certainly provide additional sugar to Kerala, keeping in view the importance of the festival.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

Poor functioning of AIR/Doordarshan

*305. SHRI P. NAMGYAL :

SHRI SUKH RAM :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding poor functioning and break-down of some of the AIR/Doordarshan centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and till date, State-wise and location-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures adopted so far and proposed to be adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The functioning of the AIR Stations and Doordarshan Kendras has been generally satisfactory. However, there have been some complaints about short breakdowns of service in respect of a few studios and certain transmitters. These relate to disruption/failure of power supply; failure of certain components in the equipment; failure of telephone/microwave links, limited transmission due to shortage of staff, etc.

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

(c) Whenever any breakdown is noticed or a complaint is received about malfunctioning or non-functioning of any All India Radio Station/Doordarshan Kendra or transmitter, immediate remedial action is taken to rectify the defect. This is an ongoing process. Some of the remedial measures adopted include maintaining adequate inventory of spare parts, keeping constant liaison with state Electricity Boards, providing standby power supply equipment in a phased manner, setting up of maintenance centres to look after a group of LPTs/VLPTs etc. efforts are also being made to remove the shortage of staff.

Productivity Linked Wage Agreement

*306. LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India has recently signed productivity linked wage agreement with its aircraft engineers;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(c) whether the Air India proposes to sign such agreements with some more categories of employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Under the Agreement, payments are linked to despatch reliability and aircraft availability.

(c) and (d). A similar agreement has been signed with Air India Employees' Guild and a similar schemes made applicable to Air India Officers' Association. Negotiations are under way with other organisations.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Increase in Air Fares

*307. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the increase made in the air fare during the period from 1990 till date;

(b) whether the Government propose to further increase the air fare; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent to which it is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The range of fare increas from India effected by Air India and Indian Airlines in various international sectors from 01.09.90 onwards is indicated below :-

| Period | Increase in Percentage |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 01 January 90 - 30 March 90 | 5.0 - 17.7 |
| 01 April 90 - 30 June 90 | 4.0 - 19.0 |
| 01st July 90 - 30 Sept. 90 | 4.54 - 27.54 |
| 01 October 90 - 31 Dec. 90 | 2.0 - 10.0 |
| 01 January 91 - 30 March 91 | 7.0 - 7.0 |
| 01 April 91 - 30 June 91 | 3.0 - 20.0 |
| 01 October 91 - 31 Dec. 91 | 3.0 - 11.4 |
| 01 January 92 - 30 March 92 | 3.0 - 3.0 |
| 01 April 92 - 30 June 92 | 5.0 - 15.0 |
| 01 July 92 - 30 Sept.92 | 10.0 - 10.0 |
| 01 October 92 - 31 Dec. 92 | 15.0 - 15.0 |
| 01 January 93 - 30 March 93 | 8.5 - 8.5 |
| 01 April 93 - 30 June 93 | 15.0 - 26.5 |
| 01 July 93 - 30 Sept.93 | 15.0 - 15.0 |
| 01 Jaunary 94 - 30 March 94 | 4.6 - 6.5 |
| 01 April 94 - 30 June 94 | 3.0 - 20.0 |
| 01 July 94 - 30 Sept. 94 | 3.0 - 20.0 |
| 01 April 95 - 30 June 95 | 0.90 - 9.86 |
| 01 July 95 - 30 Sept 95 | 2.40 - 2.40 |
| 01 October 95 - 31 Dec. 95 | 10.00 - 15.40 |
| January 96 - 30 March 96 | 3.40 - 20.00 |
| April 96 - 30 June 96 | 10.00 - 15.00 |

Fare increase effected by Indian Airlines in domestic sectors is as under :-

| Date | Increase in percentage |
|------------|--|
| 11.4.1990 | 15.7 |
| 26.9.1990 | 10.0 |
| 07.10.1991 | 20.0 |
| 02.10.1992 | 9.0 |
| 13.09.1993 | 15.0 |
| 25.7.1994 | Average 15% (from 10% - 20%) |
| 15.6.1995 | Dollar fare revised Differential of INR fare and dollar fare fixed at 15% (dollar fare to be 15% more than the INR fare). |
| 1.10.1995 | Average 20% (from 12% - 23%) |
| 1.1.1996 | Dollar fare revised by 20%. |

(b) and (c). Airlines are free to fix the fares on domestic sectors in their own commercial judgement keeping in view the increase in input costs and the impact on traffic. as regards international fares, the increases are initially discussed and agreed by the airlines at the Tariff Co-ordinating Conference of the International Air Transport Association (IATA and implemented with the approval of the respective Governments. Such review of international fares is undertaken by IATA for different sectors from time to time.

Import and Export of Sugar

*308. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the logic behind the import or export of sugar during 1994-95;

(b) the resultant loss/profit to the country due to the above imports/exports;

(c) whether the Government propose to cancel the import contracts keeping in view the losses suffered, if any;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether responsibility has been fixed for such losses;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?