

(c) whether Government had convened a meeting on 5th July, 2002 with National Highways Authority of India in which oil companies were also present; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) To discuss various issues, inter-ministerial consultations were done by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH). Different aspects including problems relating to the existing retail outlets on the highways as well as the future retail outlets, that may be set up along the Highways, have been discussed. A broad agreement, *Inter-alia*, has been reached as follows:—

- (i) All fuel stations set up after 1983 must fulfill all the norms set out in MORTH's circular of August, 2000 and Indian Roads Congress code IRC:12:1983.
- (ii) Pre-1983 fuel stations to be identified along with their deficiencies with reference to the existing norms and IRC:12:1983 to take a view on their rectifications.
- (iii) wherever there is clustering of fuel stations, service road along with deceleration and acceleration lanes would be provided by the oil companies.
- (iv) Oil Industry to apply for lease/licence for the approach road from the National Highway to the fuel station and the licence fee for the existing fuel station shall be as per the existing norms.
- (v) Fuel stations falling within the municipal limits to follow the municipal rules, petroleum rules and MORTH's norms.

For future retail outlets, norms are yet to be finalized.

Reduction in plane fare for Tripura

*228. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of aircraft flying from Agartala to Kolkata in a week;

(b) the measures Government propose to take to increase the number of flights to cope with the rush of passengers; and

(c) whether Government are considering reduction of plane fare for the people of Tripura on account of geographical barriers of the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Only Indian Airlines and Alliance Air are operating air services on Kolkata-Agartala-Kolkata sector as per the following details:

Indian Airlines

Kolkata-Agartala-Kolkata 9 flights/week

Alliance AIR

Kolkata-Agartala-Kolkata 3 flights/week

Indian Airlines also operates additional services on the route to cater to seasonal demand depending on resources available. The Government has also laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services for different regions of the country including North-East region.

(c) No, Sir. Fares on the services to/from Agartala are already much lower than the fares on other sectors.

Export of foodgrains

*229. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of foodgrains exported to various countries during the current year alongwith the names of such countries; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of foodgrains (rice & wheat) exported during the current year (April, 2002) is as under:—

Item	Qty(MT)	Value (Rs. crores)
Basmati rice	16426	49.44
Non-Basmati rice	192688	117.89
Wheat	240427	114.34

(SOURCE: DGCI&S, Kolkata)