

Questions

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the outcome thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND BHAI SHAH); (a) to (c) Government have not received any enquiry from the multinational financing institutions regarding alleged concealment of production capacities by the country's urea and ammonia plants. As such, the question of re-action of the Government to any such enquiry does not arise.

Increase in the prices of Vanaspati

1138. SHRI CHATURANAN MI-SHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the steep rise in the prices of Vanaspati and edible oils recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that the prices of Vanaspati have gone up by 70 per cent in the last Calendar year and by 35 per cent during the last four months;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to bring down the prices?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BI-RENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The wholesale price increase of Vanaspati exhibited a rise of 37.6 per cent in the last calendar year and 7.3 per cent during the last four months. The wholesale prices of

Vanaspati during the last four months (month ending) are as under:

(Rs . /15 kg. Tin)	
End of month	Wholesale price of Vanaspati/Delhi
February, 1990	386
November, 1990	495
December, 1990	495
January, 1991	575
February, 1991	531

(d) Some of the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices include granting of excise rebate on use of non-conventional oils in Vanaspati reduction of stock limits of edible oilseed and oils by dealers/processors and manufacturers of edible oils, permitting blending of conventional edible oils with non-conventional oils etc. State Governments have also been asked to undertake strict actions against hoarders, black-marketeers in edible oilseeds and oils. Distribution of imported edible oils through Public Distribution System at reasonable price is continuing.

Delhi Urban Arts Commission

1139. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main objectives in setting up the Delhi Urban Arts Commission;

(b) whether any review of the functioning of the Delhi Urban Arts Commission has been made to know how far it has achieved the objectives for which it was set up;

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof stating the inadequacies in its functioning identified; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to move in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN)

(a) to (d) The Delhi Urban Arts Commission was set up under Delhi Urban Arts Commission Act, 1973 with the object of preserving, developing and maintaining the aesthetic quality of urban and environmental design within Delhi. During the 17 years of its existence, it has been able to achieve this objective by encouraging good designs and preventing and discouraging bad ones and creating awareness amongst professionals about the importance of harmony of the overall urban city scape. No specific review of its functioning has been undertaken.

Shortage of Railway Wagons

1140. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the existing shortage if railway wagons and by what percentage the shortfall rises during the peak season;

(b) by what percentage the wagon shortfall has risen due to diversion of road traffic to the Railways due to diesel shortage;

(c) what is the impact of the wagon shortage, on the overall railway earnings during 1990 as compared to the earnings during 1989;

(d) what is the annual addition of railway wagons during 1987, 1988 and 1989; and

(e) whether any programme has been formulated to meet the wagon shortage?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Shortage is experienced only in the busy season which lasts from October to March, every year and in the current year it is of the order of 5 to 7 per cent.

(b) Marginally.

(c) Not possible to assess for many other factors affected freight traffic.

(d) There was a net addition of 22994 wagons to the wagon fleet, during the period 1987-88 to 1989-90.

(e) Funds permitting, it is proposed to step up the acquisition of wagons during the next three years of eighth five year plan.

Circular rail system in Madras

1141. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the circular rail system sanctioned for Madras is at standstill since this Government have assumed office; and

(b) if so, when the scheme would be completed since it fits a long felt need of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) There is no such approved project with the Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

Tourist Hotels in T. N., Kerala and Andhra Run by the Central Government

1142. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister Of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourist Hotels run by the Central Government in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the tourist hotels run by the Centre are running at a loss; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps have been taken to increase the marginal profit to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINGH): (a) The Central Ministry of Tourism is not operating any hotel in the country. However, ITDC, a Central Public