

Smuggling by crew members of Air India

†3392. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that four crew members of Air India were held on 2 March, 2010 for smuggling a consignment of medicines from America;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these people had been indulging in such kind of smuggling since long; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to stop such illegal trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Four crew members were detained by Customs officials on their arrival at IGI Airport, Delhi after operating flight AI 102 of March 02, 2010. The goods carried by them included medicines also.

- (c) No, Sir as per official records in the matter.
- (d) The crew are briefed and counselled about Crew Customs entitlements for the various stations.

Creation of Petroleum Trust

3393. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Petroleum Trust created by RIL in 2002 for a period of five years was continued by RIL without the authority of the shareholders even after seven years to facilitate Mr. Mukesh Ambani to illegally exercise voting rights on Trust shares and to have majority control of RIL;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the earnings of the Petroleum Trust and its usage; and
- (d) the action being taken by Government to ensure that the funds of the trust are not misused for the benefit of individual shareholder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAYAN MEENA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

Nutrient based subsidy regime

3394. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI D.RAJA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has approved a new Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) regime for fertilizer replacing the age-old product based subsidy regime; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the salient features of the new regime and the amount of subsidy expected to be saved by Government thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAYAN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) **SALIENT FEATURES:**

- (i) On February 18, 2010 the Cabinet approved implementation of the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy on decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers with effect from 1st April, 2010.
- (ii) In terms of this policy, the subsidy on the nutrients 'N' — Nitrogen, 'P' — Phosphorus, 'K' — Potash and 'S' — Sulphur contents would be fixed on an annual basis. In addition to the fixed subsidy on above mentioned nutrients, there will be an additional per tonne subsidy for subsidized fertilizer carrying other secondary nutrients and micro nutrients in formulations approved under FCO 1985.
- (iii) The NBS regime is expected to promote balanced fertilization and consequently increase agriculture productivity in the country through higher usage of secondary and micro nutrients. It is also expected that new innovative fertilizer products would be developed subsequently under the NBS regime to meet the different requirements of Indian agriculture. The NBS regime is expected to depict the actual demand of fertilizers in the country and promote realistic pricing of fertilizer products in the international market. Unshackling of fertilizer industry is also expected to attract fresh investments in this sector.
- (iv) It has also been decided to constitute an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Fertilizers) to examine various scenarios and make recommendations for finalization of per nutrient subsidy to the Government under the proposed Policy.
- (v) Urea which has the maximum tonnage consumed nitrogenous fertilizers in the country will continue to be under the current MRP regime.
- (vi) It is to be noted that a shift to Nutrient Based Subsidy does not, by itself, bring down (or increases) the quantum of subsidy.

Long term credit co-operative societies in Maharashtra

3395. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of proposal received by Government about restructuring of long term credit co-operative societies in Maharashtra;
- (b) the current status of the proposal;
- (c) the reasons for delay in their sanction;
- (d) whether the accountability has been fixed for this delay and any action has been taken against those responsible; and