

have been about 30 per cent, on certain routes it has been higher averaging 60—70 per cent.

Selection of Aircraft for Vayudoot Air Service

124. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKARA REDDY:

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the selection of a suitable aircraft for vayudoot air services;

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

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c) The proposals for licence manufacture of light Transport Aircraft at HAL for common use of Civil and Defence organisations are currently being evaluated. Certain information sought from the foreign firms is awaited.

Production of Vanaspati

125. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose not to expand vanaspati industry on account of involvement of huge amount of foreign exchange;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether the supply of indigenous edible oils is sufficient to keep the industry viable for meeting the vanaspati requirements in the country; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to keep the production of vanaspati on the high side to meet its consumption?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) and (b) The available capacity for the production of vanaspati is, by and large, adequate.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government is allotting imported oil to the vanaspati industry to maintain the tempo of production at the desired levels.

126. [Transferred to the 8th October, 1982].

Purchase of Sugar by Civil Supplies Corporation

127. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Civil Supplies Corporation bought sugar last year from Tamil Nadu Corporation and in Uttar Pradesh at all-time high prices and the sugar purchased from Madras had to be disposed of there itself at a heavy loss;

(b) whether it is also a fact that huge quantity of sugar procured at high price is still in the stock of Civil Supplies Corporation; —

(c) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the reasons for not buying the sugar direct from the mills which would have been more economical; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to dispose off the sugar stock mentioned at (b) above?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) Presuming that the reference is to the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation, the later bought sugar last