

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Andaman and Nicobar Administration for declaring a free port in Great Nicobar for international ships; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) No such proposal has been so far received.

(b) Does not arise.

Serving of poor quality snacks and food on IA flights

*166. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the snacks and food served on IA flights are of a very poor quality; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve their quality?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b) Government are aware that certain sections of the travelling public think that there is scope for improvement in the quality of snacks and food served on the flights of Indian Airlines and have directed the management to take immediate steps to bring about desired improvement in this matter.

National policy on edible oils

*167. SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any national policy on edible oils; and

(b) if so, what are the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A National Edible Oil Policy has been prepared which covers major areas like measures for increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds, technological innovations designed to increase oil extractions, buffer stocking and price support measures, regulation of the type and quantum of imports and their time schedule, and measures for the supply of edible oils to the consumer at reasonable and relatively stable prices.

Change in policy for import of polyester filament yarn

*168. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: SHRIMATI NOORJEHAN RAZACK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy regarding the import of polyester filament yarn and the changes in the policy effected from time to time during the last twelve months; and

(b) the reasons for the change in policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Policy for import of Polyester Filament Yarn

Period	Policy	Reasons for change
POLICY FOR ACTUAL USERS		
977-78 (upto 1-9-1977)	Requirements will be met by imports through State Trading Corporation on the recommendations of sponsoring authorities.	
1977-78 (from 2-9-1977)	Direct allotment through State Trading Corporation.	With the rising demand, the price of this material was going up. Therefore, to enable the Actual Users to secure their requirements at reasonable price, the item was placed on direct allotment through State Trading Corporation. As a result, the prices have come down.
POLICY FOR REGISTERED EXPORTERS		
1977-78 (upto 21-8-1977)	Item included in Export-linked-Import list to be allowed for import against fabrics, ready-made garments etc. in the manufacture of which Synthetic Filament Yarn is used.	
1977-78 (from 22-8-1977) to 1-9-1977)	Item removed from Export-linked-Import List.	On account of the rising demand of this material, the market price started going up. Therefore, in order to increase the availability and to bring down the price to a reasonable level, imports linked only to the export of fabrics, ready-made garments etc. in the manufacture of which synthetic filament yarn is used, were relaxed.
1977-78 (from 2-9-1977)	(i) Item re-included in the Export-linked-Import List. (ii) Export Houses which are manufacturer-cum-exporters of textiles may be allowed to obtain release Orders on STC against transferred licences.	Representations were made the removal of linkage to the export of specified products would result in excessive imports and would thus affect adversely the indigenous industry including Petrofils, a new unit in Co-operative Sector, producing this yarn. Therefore, in order to regulate imports broadly to cover supply demand gap, the linkage was reintroduced while simultaneously the item was included in the Direct Allotment Scheme to the actual users, through State Trading Corporation. The sale price for this yarn of 75 denier was fixed at Rs. 120 per Kg, which brought down the market prices and consequently curtailed the high margin of profits.