

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA:  
Last time, he said it is a tissue of lies. I want a reply from Mr Patel.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is upto them whoever replies.

SHRI H.M. PATEL : I have said it before also. In regard to this, on another occasion when I happened to be here and he mentioned this, I said that the whole thing was a tissue of lies. I repeat it.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA:  
I repeat that you are a liar. You are involved in smuggling and it is at your instance that this has been done.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over. Don't record it.

*[Shri Yogendra Makwana. continued to speak. (Interruptions)]*

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Comparative Prices of Tobacco

•725. SHRI PHANINDRA NATH HANSDA : SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE: SHRIMATI PRATIMA BOSE: SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN : SHRI AHMAD HOSSAIN MONDAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) the comparative prices of tobacco, variety wise in West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa during the years 1975-76, 1976-77, 1977-78 and upto July in 1978-79 ;

(b) the reasons for the fluctuation of prices, if any, during these years ; and

(c) the measures, adopted or proposed to be adopted by Government to stabilise the prices of tobacco throughout the country in the interest of the tobacco growers?

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

### Statement

(a) Based on month-end whole-sale prices, the minimum and maximum prices during the years 1975 to 1977 and upto July, 1978 were as follows :—

| State/Centre              | Variety         | Price in rupees per quintal. |          |          |          |          |          |                  |          |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|----------|
|                           |                 | Year                         |          |          |          |          |          |                  |          |
|                           |                 | 1975                         |          | 1976     |          | 1977     |          | 1978 (Upto July) |          |
|                           |                 | Mini-mum                     | Maxi-mum | Mini-mum | Maxi-mum | Mini-mum | Maxi-mum | Mini-mum         | Maxi-mum |
| Bihar (Bhagwanpur)        | Desi Mohran     | ..                           | ..       | 1075     | 1500     | 845      | 1150     | 670              | 750      |
| Orissa (Cuttack)          | Chewing         | 882                          | 1124     | 982      | 1866     | 1035     | 1865     | 906              | 1160     |
| West Bengal (Calcutta)    | Motihari medium | 780                          | 1100     | 1150     | 1800     | 880      | 1680     | 780              | 900      |
| West Bengal (Calcutta)    | Bidi tobacco    | 1200                         | 1250     | 1100     | 1200     | 1200     | 1200     | 1100             | 1300     |
| West Bengal (Cooch Behar) | Motihari-medium | 675                          | 980      | 725      | 1550     | 650      | 1200     | 588              | 713      |

(b) The fluctuations can be attributed to surplus production and somewhat static or even shrinking domestic demand for chewing and hookah types of tobacco which are the principal varieties produced in these three States.

(c) In the case of Virginia and bidi tobaccos, the Government have already intervened in the market through the STC and NAFED in the interest of the growers. In respect of other varieties, the Policy is that the State Go-operative institutions with encouragement from the State Governments should come forward to purchase surplus tobacco for which assistance could be provided in making available to them requisite credit facilities. For evolving a long term solution to the production and marketing problems of different types of tobacco, the Government have already appointed an Expert Group last month with direction to submit its report within six months.

#### Boeing pay-off

♦726. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHA-  
PARDE : DR. V.P. DUTT :  
SHRI NARASINGHA PRA-  
SAD NANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 6th August, 1978 he had told newsmen in Raipur that the Government of India has asked the Boeing Company to give thenames of those individuals who received the 'pay-off' from the Company for purchase of three Boeing aircraft at a cost of over Rs. 100 crores ;

(b) if so, when the Government of India had written to the Boeing Company in this regard ; and

(c) whether any reply has since been received from the Boeing Company, if so ; what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTAM KAUSHIK): (a) to (c) It is correct that while replying to questions raised by pressmen at Raipur, I had referred to the press reports which had appeared in India recently about Boeing Company's admission before the Securities and Exchange Commissions of U.S.A. to the effect that India was one of the seven countries where such pay offs were effected by the Boeing Company, and I had added that the question of pursuing the matter with a view to getting the names of the beneficiaries in India has been taken up through diplomatic channel. On the basis of information obtained

through the U.S. Department of Justice, a case has been registered against the following :

- i. M/s. Piltman Aircraft Company.
2. Shri Kekoo Jehangir Maneckji.
3. Smt. Piloo M. Maneckji.
4. Shri Jean Kekoo Maneckji

for offences punishable under section 56 of the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, 1973 and sections 162, 163 and 120 B of Indian Penal Code. The investigations are still in progress.

The United States Department of Justice had furnished the information under an agreement which specifically lays down that the information shall be used exclusively for purposes of investigations conducted by agencies with law enforcement responsibilities and for ensuring criminal, civil and administrative proceedings. Therefore, it will not be in the public interest to divulge any further details in this regard.

#### Export of Refrigerators

♦727. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYA-NARAYANA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the entire market for refrigerators in the Persian Gulf countries and the African and Asian countries has been captured by countries other than India ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to capture a larger share in these markets for the export of Indian refrigerators and deep freezers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG) : (a) While the major share of the market for refrigerators in the Persian Gulf, African and Asian countries, is being enjoyed by firms from countries other than India, yet exports from India have also been showing an increasing trend. Exports of refrigerators and parts to these countries amounted to about Rs. 91.94 lakhs in 1976-77 against about Rs. 75.54 lakhs in 1975-76.

(b) The Engineering Export Promotion Council has been taking export promotion measures like sending delegations, Salts Teams, and participation in exhibition. Besides, Government has been encouraging exports of such products to these countries-