

surrounding silicon technology contract awarded to a U.S. firm as reported in the Times of India of the 8th April, 1984; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the technology and equipment proposed to be preferred is out dated in comparison to Indian technology and equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIV RAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the Newspaper Item published in 'Times of India' dated April 8, 1985. The full facts of the case including the details of imported technology and equipment *vis-a-vis* that available locally have been taken into consideration by the Government of India and the decision taken has been already placed before the Rajya Sabha on March 14, which is as follows:—

"The Government have taken the decision to enter into an agreement with the Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation, USA after a careful assessment of the present stage of the techno-economic viability and cost effectiveness of the indigenously developed process. At the same time, the Government will give the fullest support to the effort for the development of indigenous process on a commercial scale, and the investment decision in regard to the National Silicon Facility will be taken only after evaluating the results achieved by the production unit of 25 TPA being set up by the Mettur Chemicals. A National Centre for Development of Materials for Electronics will be set up to promote R&D effort in this strategic area."

Enhancement of Vayudoot services to far flung areas of historical and commercial importance

1055. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to 'increase' and improve Vayudoot services to far flung areas of historical and commercial importance; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to subsidise services to far flung places not connected by road/rail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): "(a) Vayudoot was established primarily to connect inaccessible areas in the North-Eastern region and to link stations not served by Indian Airlines which are important as centres of trade and commerce or from the point of view of tourism. The Company has so far air-linked 31 stations all over the country which include some stations which are of historical and commercial importance. Its operations are being gradually expanded.

(b) No, Sir. However, the fares on the service operated in the North-Eastern region are lower than the fares applicable in rest of the country.

Revision of retirement age of Central Government Employees

1056. SHRI K. BASAVARAJU:
SHRI M. MADDANNA;

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the matter relating to the revision of retirement age of Central Government employees has been referred to both the Sarkaria Commission and the Fourth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, "the reasons for which the matter has been referred to two different commissions; and