

(b) whether the work on this project has been delayed; if so to what extent; and

(c) the extra expenditure likely to be incurred?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) India's first indigenously built Light Transport Aircraft SARAS is expected to be ready for its first flight around middle of the next year.

(b) The work on the first flight of the prototype has been delayed due to:

(i) difficulties in procurement of air-worthy certified components;

(ii) inadequacy of requisite quality machining facilities in India; and

(iii) technological difficulties in wing forming etc. However, efforts are being made to keep up to the original overall project duration period of three and half years from the date of sanction.

(c) No extra expenditure is envisaged at this moment due to the initial delay.

Harassment of Scientists

2314. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists have written to the PM about their constant harassment by the Central Vigilance Commission, especially in the National Physical Laboratory, Delhi and Central Scientific Instruments Organization, Chandigarh;

(b) its impact on research undertaken by the CSIR scientists in different units; and

(c) the action proposed to desist frequent scrutiny of decisions taken by scientists on financial matters?

[11 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes Sir. The Scientists of the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi, in a Joint representation dated 16.5.2000 addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the ex-officio President, CSIR without specifically mentioning the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) had stated that frequent vigilance inquiries etc. in the recent past have created a fear psychosis resulting in serious impediments in implementation of time bound projects.

(b) No assessment of impact on research undertaken by CSIR Scientists in different Laboratories/Institutes has been made so far.

(c) Steps are a foot to evolve a mechanism to educate the scientists and make them more aware of the vigilance procedures through suitable awareness programmes.

Apprehension of CSIR Scientists

2315. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Indian Express dated 19th May, 2000 under the caption, "CSIR Scientists fear set back to research as directors quit".

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted into the reasons for resignation of scientists from CSIR; and

(c) if so, the details and remedial action taken, if any?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No. Sir. The two Directors referred to in the newsitem did not resign from their post, infact, they were on foreign service terms with CSIR. On the Specific requests made based on purely