

(b) what are the facts of this 'discovery of a massive racket' regarding the fraudulent endorsements on import licences for certain banned and centralized items; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct similar probes of frauds, etc., in other offices of the CCI&E; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is annexed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

#### Statement

Deputy Collector of Customs, Bombay made a reference to the endorsement made on six licences under para 138 of the Imports Export Policy in a joint weekly meeting with Jt. Chief Controller of Import and Exports, Bombay. The investigation made by the Office of the Jt. Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Bombay revealed that in one out of the six licences, the endorsements appearing thereon was a forgery and was never given by that office. Customs, Bombay were therefore, requested to refer back all such cases where the goods were in the process of clearances. This led to discovery of some further forgeries. It was also discovered that on some licences, endorsements had been obtained from Bombay office presenting forged letter heads. Therefore, inspection of cases where endorsements under para 138 have been given in the last three years, has been ordered. So far irregularities have been noticed in about seventy cases. Out of these in seven cases licences have been cancelled after observing the prescribed procedure. In another thirteen cases orders suspending the operation of licences have been issued and Show Cause Notices given for cancellation. Further investigations are in progress.

Necessary action in terms of the provisions of Imports (Control) Order, 1955, as amended, will be taken wherever warranted.

#### Proposed offer by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to Manufacture Aircraft for Vayudoot Services

833. SHRI LAKHAN SINGH:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

SHRI HARISHANKAR BHABHRA:

*Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:*

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited had offered to manufacture a small aircraft for Vayudoot services at a cost of less than Rs. 2 crores for each aircraft with a sitting capacity for 24 passengers; and

(b) if so, what were the reasons which weighed in favour of importing the West German 'Dornier' aircraft for the purpose with a sitting capacity for 19 passengers at a cost of about Rs. 350 crores in foreign exchange for 150 aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) A proposal was received from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in July, 1981, for design and development of a 30-seater passenger aircraft requiring foreign assistance also in certain areas. A total time-frame of nearly 7 years was envisaged for the first production aircraft to roll out after completion of design and development of the aircraft. In view of the urgent requirements of Vayudoot as well as the Defence Services, a decision was taken to induct the 19-Seater Dornier aircraft and the first production aircraft from HAL would roll out from 1985-86. Design collaboration for a 30-seater aircraft is also a part of the Agreement.

The Detailed Project Report is under preparation and the exact cost including foreign exchange outgo with any degree of accuracy would be known only thereafter.

**Customs and other Duties paid on the Aircraft donated to Shri Dharendra Brahmachari by Shri Swraj Paul**

834. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an aircraft was donated by a nonresident Indian Shri Swraj Paul of the CAPARO group of industries in U.K. to Shri Dharendra Brahmachari of the Aparna Ashram; and

(b) if so, what were the customs and other duties paid on the deal with particulars of the aircraft and its value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) One 1980 model, Cessna P-337, skymaster aircraft was donated by Shri Swraj Paul to Shri Dharendra Brahmachari of the Aparna Ashram Society and was cleared against Customs Clearance Permit number P/J/30601 94 dated 12-2-81. The declared value of the Aircraft was Rs. 19,40,417 and a total Customs duty of Rs. 3,25,324.45P was paid on the Aircraft.

**Indo-USSR Joint Space Programme.**

835. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by the Indian Astronauts under training in the Soviet Union for a joint space programme with the Soviet Astronauts; and

(b) by when the space programme is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Training of Indian cosmonauts in the Soviet Union is progressing satisfactorily and according to schedule.

(b) The joint space flight is expected to take place in April, 1984.

**ग्रामीण विकास बैंक दरभंगा के भूतपूर्व चेयरमैन के विरुद्ध शिकायत**

836. श्री राम भगत पासवान :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह ज्ञान को बढ़ा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को मिथिला क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण विकास बैंक (दरभंगा) के भूतपूर्व चेयरमैन के विरुद्ध कोई ऐसी शिकायत मिली है कि उन्होंने जाली सर्टिफिकेट के आधार पर अपने संबंधियों को नौकरी दी है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि उस चेयरमैन ने दो साल की अवधि के अंदर लहेरिया सराय में उच्च उनकी पोस्टिंग हुई थी, लाखों रुपये की अचल सम्पत्ति तथा भूकान खरीद लिया है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्योरा क्या है और सरकार ने उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की है ।

वित्त मंत्रालय में जनरल (श्री जनार्दन गुजरो) : (क) जी, हां । हाल ही में दरभंगा से प्रकाशित, हिन्दी पाक्षिक "जनता प्रहरी" के सहायक सम्पादक श्री एन. एन. झा ने सरकार का ध्यान पत्र में प्रकाशित एक समाचार की ओर दिनाया है जिसमें मिथिला क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक के भूतपूर्व अध्यक्ष द्वारा अपने सालो/बहनोई (ब्रदर इन ला) को जाली प्रमाण पत्र के आधार पर ग्रामीण बैंक में लिपिक के रूप में