

hundred air strips, six cantonments, including one underground and three naval dockyards are being constructed in Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): Government have seen media reports of the establishment of the U.S. Central Command and also about the development of military facilities in Pakistan. All developments impinging on our security are assessed on a continuing basis and appropriate measures taken from time to time to ensure full defence preparedness.

Export-linked Import Policy for Jewellery

2226. SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the FICCI has urged Government to consider an export-linked import policy for jewellery; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) The suggestions of FICCI for evolving an export linked import policy for jewellery have been considered, and appropriate decision is being initiated by the Government in the matter in the interest of export promotion and the development of the jewellery trade.

Ban on import of wool-tops

2227. SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are envisaging a ban on the import of wool-tops in view of the huge unutilised capacity in the indigenous wool-top industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) Wool-tops already appears in the list of banned items in the import policy. Its import is allowed only for export production. There is no proposal to change this policy.

Compensation in cases of accidental deaths of Air Hostesses.

2228. SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of compensation payable by the Indian Airlines to the legal heirs of the Air Hostesses in cases of accidental deaths while on duty is much more than that admissible in Air-India.

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the duties performed by the Air Hostesses of Indian Airlines are different from those in Air-India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Steps to Boost oilfield Equipment Industry

2229. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to boost oilfield equipment industry; and