

Indo-USSR Joint Cooperation in Space Programme

834. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:
SHRI MURLIDHAR
CHANDRAKANT
BHANDARE;

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indians have been under training for being sent in a manned Space flight as a part of joint Indo-USSR Cooperation in Space Programme, and how many are proposed to be sent into the manned Space Craft; and

(b) by what time this contemplated Space Craft is proposed to be put into Orbit?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b) A decision, has been taken to undertake a joint space flight with Soviet Cosmonauts. Details are being worked out.

Payment of Share money by M/s I.T.C. Ltd. to Foreigners

835. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of foreign exchange paid by M/s. India Tobacco Company Limited to its foreign shareholders during the last two years; and

(b) whether the share amount paid by M/s. India Tobacco Company Limited to its foreign shareholders have been given in foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) According to the Balance Sheet of M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. for the year ended 31-3-1981, the amounts remitted by the company to its foreign shareholders on account of dividends during the years ended 31st

March, 1980 and 31st March, 1981 were as under:

Year ended	On account of	Amount
31st March 1980	1978-79	Rs. 98.55 lacs,
31st March 1981	1979-80	Rs. 102.00 lacs

These amounts are net of taxes and were remitted in foreign exchange.

Customs Duty on Watch components at Palam Airport

836. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that watch components worth Rs. one crore are held up by the Customs authorities at Palam Airport on the plea that small scale watch manufacturers will be asked to pay the customs duty at 147 per cent while large scale manufacturers will continue to pay 50 per cent duty;

(b) whether it is a fact that so far the concessional duty of 50 per cent was allowed to both small scale and large scale watch manufacturers;

(c) what are the reasons for increasing the duty in the case of small scale watch manufacturers; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to see that small scale manufacturers are not harassed unnecessarily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue Notification No. 240-Cus. dated 30-12-1978 as amended, provides for partial exemption from Customs duty on watch parts imported for the manufacture of watches in accordance with the production programme duty approved by the Ministry of Industry/DGTD. In some cases the benefit of

the concessional assessment has been extended to imports of such parts where the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, Ministry of Industry, New Delhi has certified the approval by him, of the production programme.

Recently a doubt was felt by the Customs authorities at Delhi whether the approval accorded by the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries), Ministry of Industry to a production programme could be regarded as approval by the Ministry of Industry in terms of the aforesaid Notification and consequently there was a hold up of the imported consignments.

The question whether the approval accorded by the said Development Commissioner could be regarded as approval by the Ministry of Industry in terms of the aforesaid Notification was examined in consultation with the Ministry of Industry. That Ministry has confirmed that this can be so regarded. Action has since been taken accordingly.

(c) and (d) In view of (a) and (b) above, question does not arise.

Development of Ahmedabad Airport as International Airport

837. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTI-RAM PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Government propose to develop Ahmedabad Airport as an International Airport; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): No, Sir. The traffic does not justify operation of international flights ex-Ahmedabad. The airport is also not suitable for regular operations of Boeing 707 and Boeing 747.

Purchase of Cotton by CCI

†837-A. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTI-RAM PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cotton Corporation of India is not purchasing cotton from Gujarat in full swing; and

(b) if so, whether C.C.I. has been asked to purchase more cotton from Gujarat and if so, how many bales?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Papers to be laid on the table.

[Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair]
Chair]

I. Report and Accounts (1980-81)
.. of the Indian Airlines and related papers.

II(a). Reports and Accounts (1979-80 and 1980-81) of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore and related papers...

(b). Report and Accounts (1979-80 and 1980-81) of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pure and related papers.

(c) Report and Accounts (1979-80 and 1980-81) to the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Bombay and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

I.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under

†Previously Unstarred Question 841, transferred from the 5th May, 1982.