

National Council on this and certain other connected issues relating to Dearness Allowance with a view to reaching the conclusion before the 30th June, 1978. The first meeting with the Standing Committee of the Staff Side of the National Council was accordingly held on the 24th April, 1978, and the next meeting with then is scheduled to be held on the 23rd May, 1978.

(iii) *Vacation of all forms of victimisation.*—Necessary orders liberalising the action taken against the employees who were involved in the strike of May, 1974 have since been issued. All temporary employees whose services were terminated and who had not so far been re-instated would be reinstated forthwith and for the intervening period between the date of termination of their service and reinstatement. They would be paid 50 per cent of the salary as would be admissible to them if they had been placed under suspension and this period would count for purpose of increment and pension only. This concession would however not apply to those who were involved in, and found guilty of, any kind of violence or causing damage to public property.

(iv) *Removal of Stagnation; and*

(v) *Removal of ban on recruitment in Group C & D Cadres.*—The demands have been expressed in general terms:—

Whenever specific cases of stagnations in any category comes to the notice of Government, action is taken to rectify the As regards the ban on recruitment to the extent practicable, some relaxations in the procedure required to be followed for filling up and for creation of posts have also been introduced from time to time.

(vi) *'De-casualisation' of casual labour.*—Instructions have been issued to the effect that where there

is regular and continuous work in existing against which casual workers have been employed for a number of years, appropriate steps should be taken to create regular posts to the extent considered necessary in accordance with the prescribed procedures for creation of such posts.

### Irregularities in the Import of Defence Equipments

\*368. SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE;  
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND;  
SHRI AHMAD HOSSAIN MONDAL;  
SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA MAHANTI;  
SHRIMATI PRATIMA BOSE.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Blitz of the 15th April, 1978, regarding the irregularities in the purchase of equipment such as Vinton (U.K.) Panoramic Cameras, Swedish rockets, advanced navigation system and air defence equipment for the I.A.F. involving the loss of crores of rupees to the exchequer, during the emergency and pre-emergency periods;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into each of these transactions; if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Government have seen this news item.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

#### Panoramic Camera

The experience of the 1971 Indo-Pakistan conflict brought home the

need for a low level high speed Panoramic camera for the IAF. Three possible choices were identified and examined, namely Fair Child (American), Omera (French) and Vinten (English). It was found that the needs of the IAF would be met by any of the three. The Vinten Camera was quoted the cheapest. Its manufacturers agreed—at no extra cost—to incorporate certain modifications to suit the requirements of the IAF, designed to enhance its capability. The performance of the camera was evaluated by the IAF after the manufacturers had incorporated the modifications. The camera meets the requirements of the IAF and was purchased at the lowest cost. It is the cheapest even after allowing for the cost of the extra trials. The report in question regarding the number of sorties and cost are highly exaggerated.

#### Rockets

The IAF requires high calibre rockets. Only two types of rockets were available for acquisition—one manufactured by M/s. Hotchkins Brandt, and another by M/s. Bofors. Both were evaluated. Of the two, the rockets of M/s. Bofors were found more successful in evaluation and also fully capable of meeting the operational requirements of the IAF. The item was therefore procured through ISM, London. These rockets are operationally fully serviceable and can be used from the aircraft in our squadron service. There has been no unwarranted expenditure.

#### Advanced Navigation System

The need for an advanced navigational system for the Canberras and Hunters was appreciated from 1973. The systems in use in various Air forces were costly. It was necessary to evaluate the systems for fitment in our aircraft. No manufacturer was willing to offer their equipment for trials on no cost basis. The choice available for procurement was limited. Of the Doppler and Inertial Navigation Systems, the Doppler sys-

tem was cheaper, by nearly half the price of the other. For the age of the Canberras and Hunters, the Inertial system was too sophisticated and costly for use. On the basis of the available technical information, two Decca Dopplers were procured at a cost not exceeding Rs. 20 lakhs and were evaluated at no extra cost, during the normal authorised flights of the Test Establishment. On the completion of the trials, the question of acquiring or not acquiring the equipment is presently under consideration; no final decision has yet been taken. The report in question to the effect that nearly Rs. 2 crores were spent on the preliminaries of this project is grossly exaggerated.

#### Air Defence Ground Environment System

The study about the air defence strategy referred to by Air Cmde. Surinder Singh was part of the regular, routine reassessment of the situation. It was once entrusted to him as he had then completed a tenure as Air Defence Commander in Western Air Command. Air Cmde. Surinder Singh did not bring forth any new or spectacular changes or cuts. Even the gaps in the air defence system, that resulted from the delay in the indigenous development and production of the sophisticated radars, and highlighted by him, were adequately filled by an extension of the life-span of the earlier generation radars. New air defence equipment were procured government to government basis from friendly foreign Government sources.

#### Non-promotion and release of Air Commander Surinder Singh

An Air Cmde. is to retire on completion of a tenure of 4 years in the substantive rank unless extended or on attaining the age of superannuation whichever is earlier. Air Cmde. Surinder Singh and two other officers who were completing their tenures of 4 years in the rank on 31-3-76 were considered for partial extension of tenure in August 1975. The Promotion Board did not recommend exten-

sion of tenure to two of the officers including Air Cmde. Surinder Singh. He was again considered for promotion to the next higher rank by the Promotion Board in November 1975, but was not recommended. Both the recommendations were examined by the Government and approved. Air Cmde. Surinder Singh retired on completion of the normally prescribed tenure. His representations against these were considered by the Government and rejected on merits.

In the above background, it does not appear necessary to make any further enquiry into the allegations of Air Cmde. Surinder Singh.

#### **Central Probes under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act**

\*369. SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of States that have given their consent for a Central Probe under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, during the last year;

(b) what is the number of Central Probes that are pending as on the 7th April, 1978, in respect of which the consent of State Governments has been obtained under the Act; and

(c) what is the number of Central Probes pending against politicians, statewide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) Whereas every case investigated by the CBI in the area of a State is taken up for such investigation with the general consent of the concerned State Government accorded under Section 6 of the DSPE Act, during 1977, specific requests were received from six States, leading to registration, by the CBI, of nine cases for investigation, which were either covered by the general consent already accorded or for which specific consent was given by the State Government.

(b) As on 7th April, 1978, 724 cases were pending investigation with the CBI.

(c) The expression "politician", not being defined in any statute, is taken to cover a person who either is or has been a member of a political party, or is engaged in political activity, but who may or may not have held a public or elected office. The information as to the number of such persons involved in the 724 cases referred to in the reply to part (b) of the question, is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Theft of Vehicles in Delhi**

\*370. SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:  
SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH:  
SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:  
SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cars, scooters and motor cycles stolen in Delhi during the year 1977-78;

(b) what is the number of these vehicles which were recovered by the police and restored to their owners; and

(c) what is the number of persons arrested in this connection and what action Government have taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix CV, Annexure No. 42].

#### **Lower Jhelum Hydel Project**

\*371. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Lower Jhelum Hydel Project in