

FIRST INDIAN BUILT TUG FOR INDIAN NAVY

1191. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first large ocean-going Tug built for the Indian Navy was launched at Calcutta on June 30, 1972;

(b) if so, whether this Tug was built with all indigenous components and at what cost; and

(c) whether, in view of its successful operation, Government are considering to build another such Tug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The tug is being built with more than 60 per cent indigenous content. The total cost of the tug is Rs. 170.93 lakhs, with provision for price escalation due to variation in rates of customs duty, foreign exchange, and wages.

(c) An order for the construction of one more ocean going tug is likely to be placed on Garden Reach Workshops Ltd. shortly.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS FROM DUM DUM AIRPORT

1192. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of international flights originating annually on an average from Dum Dum airport;

(b) whether Government propose to take a decision to the effect that all international flights to far Eastern countries will in future originate from Dum Dum airport; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH):

(a) Presently 63 flights per week are operated to/through Calcutta airport by foreign carriers. Additionally, Air-India and Indian Airlines operate 43 international flights every week through this airport.

(b) and (c): The operation of international flights by foreign airlines to/through India and by the national carriers to/through foreign countries, is governed by bilateral agreements/arrangements which take into account commercial considerations. As such, it is not feasible to lay down that all international flights will originate from a particular point.

HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED AT BARRACKPORE

1193. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the branch factory of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited at Barrackpore, West Bengal had long been demanding a new project for manufacturing modern aircraft and for converting the factory into a divisional factory; and

(b) if so, the action so far taken by the Government to meet such demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The Hindustan Aeronautics Employees Association Barrackpore has been representing to the Management for the provision of additional work and allocation of new projects to the Factory in order to avoid possible retrenchment due to reduction in work. The demand has been considered by HAL Management. The Barrackpore Factory was established only for undertaking overhaul of Dakota aircraft and not for manufacturing aircraft. However the Management of HAL has been trying to explore