

CONSTRUCTION OF AIRPORT AT HUBLI

*50. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the progress so far made and the expenditure incurred on the construction of an airport at Hubli; and

(b) the time by when the construction of the airport is likely to be completed?

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

(a) The Hubli-Dharwar Municipal Corporation transferred 200 acres of land to the Civil Aviation Department on 25-8-1971 out of 400 acres required for construction of the aerodrome at Hubli. Soil investigations are in progress.

(b) Construction is proposed to be started during the current plan period.

SALE OF PROPERTIES BY SYNDICATE BANK

*51. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the properties sold by the Syndicate Bank of India (i) one year before nationalisation and (ii) within one year after nationalisation;

(b) whether the sales affected after nationalisation include buildings and/or land; and

(c) the particulars of the post-nationalisation sales including the names of the purchasers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix LXXX, Annexure No. 3]

Loss in FOREIGN EXCHANGE

*52. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased

to state the extent of foreign exchange lost to the country due to manipulation of trade, smuggling and foreign exchange racket during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : It is difficult to assess with precision the amount of foreign exchange involved in currency and other malpractices, smuggling and trade manipulation. However, the Study Team on Leakage of Foreign Exchange appointed by the Ministry of Finance, whose report was placed on the Table of this House on 16th November, 1971, estimated that currently the extent of unauthorised use of foreign exchange would be of the order of Rs. 240 crores per annum.

Loss of AIR FORCE PLANES AND PERSONNEL DUE TO ACCIDENTS

*53. SHRI N. G. GORAY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last six months, a number of air force planes and personnel were lost on account of accidents;

(b) whether Government have completed investigations into the matter; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) During the last six months, 22 IAF aircraft were involved in serious accidents. 20 Air Force personnel, 3 other Service personnel and one civilian were killed in these accidents. In addition, one pilot is missing since 28th April 1972.

(b) Court of Inquiry proceedings in respect of 10 accidents have been finalised. Appropriate action and remedial measures are taken. Courts of Inquiry in respect of remaining accidents are in progress.

(c) The aircraft involved are of various types and the accidents have occurred in different and widely separated areas. No discernible pattern is evident. Statistically, they fall within the range of our past experience.