

as these have been a stumbling block to the development of scientific and technological education in India; and

(b) if so, when is the decision likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO) : (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) It is not possible to indicate at this stage when a decision is likely to be taken.

#### **GROUNDING OF 'PUSHPAK' TRAINER AIRCRAFT**

159. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON:

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Civil Aviation Department has asked all the Flying Clubs in the country to ground the 'Pushpak' trainer aircraft;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this grounding; and

(c) what alternative arrangements are proposed to be made to train pilots ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Instructions were issued to all Operators that Pushpak aircraft shall not be flown until such time as the rear wing strut attachment lugs were modified in accordance with an approved modification evolved by manufacturers of this aircraft viz. the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. Bangalore Division. This resulted in grounding of the Pushpak aircraft by the operators, temporarily, till the modification of the modifications.

(b) Instance of fatigue cracks on the lugs were reported as a result of magnaflux inspection called for by the Civil Aviation Department.

(c) Certain Flying Clubs operating other types of trainer aircraft have

volunteered to do additional instructional flying and the Director General of Civil Aviation has allotted additional quotas of subsidised flying hours to them.

#### **PARACHUTE ETC. FOUND NEAR SHANDOL (MADHYA PRADESH)**

160 SHRI R. K. PODDAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been able to unravel the mystery surrounding a Parachute and a box containing certain instruments, pamphlets, etc., found on the branches of a tree in a jungle near Shandol, Madhya Pradesh, on or about 31st September, 1968; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) :

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

#### **STATEMENT**

On the 21st September, 1968, in a village about 70 kilometers from Shandol, two wood cutters found, in a dense forest, a parachute like cloth hanging on a tree as also a box hanging from another tree nearby. They brought down the article and found that a ticking sound was coming from the box. The articles were seized and brought to Jitpur Police Station on 29th September, 1968. They were examined at Shandol Police Station. The box contained an instrument and two Eveready batteries on which the marking "Made in U.S.A." was inscribed. Two other small tins probably containing oil were also recovered along with a folding apparatus with a hook and wire which looked like an aerial. The box also contained some pamphlets in Chinese and coloured picture which looked like a cartoon. On a preliminary examination of the articles by Deputy Superintendent of Police (Radio) the equipment found did not appear to be a radio transmitter or a receiver. Further enquiries are in progress.