

preventive and punitive action. A case against one of the foreign airlines is under investigation of the Enforcement Directorate. It will not be in the public interest to reveal the names of firms/airlines suspected of such malpractices, as that may hamper investigation.

#### PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES

**\*225. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the question of protecting life and property and safeguarding the interests of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other minority communities was considered at the Conference of the State Chief Ministers held in May, 1968;

(b) if so, what decisions were arrived at; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to implement the same ?

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):** (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

A Conference of Chief Ministers was held on 19th May, 1968, to discuss the communal situation and the condition of Harijans. The Home Minister pointed out that the administration should put its entire weight on the side of weaker sections of the society to improve their conditions. It has been suggested to the State Governments that in order to instill confidence amongst the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it is important that incidents involving Scheduled Castes and Tribes should be investigated with more than ordinary care and promptness and all possible efforts should be made to ensure that the offenders are brought before the Courts of Law in the shortest possible time. If necessary, special investigating teams should be set up so that the prosecution does not suffer on account of inadequate investigation. It has also been suggested to the State Governments that the question of recruitment of Harijans in police should be kept continuously under review.

The following decisions for checking communalism and safeguarding the interests of minorities were also taken :

(i) Full use of the provisions of the law particularly of Sections 153A and 295A IPC should be made for dealing with writings of communal nature. It was generally felt that delegation of the power of sanction of prosecution under section 196 Cr. P.C. to the District Magistrates would lead to prompt prosecutions against persons promoting hatred and enmity between different sections of the people.

(ii) It was agreed that prosecution of papers indulging in inflammatory writings was not enough. It was necessary for Governments to take powers to prevent such writings. In this connection the relevant provisions of Punjab Special Powers (Press) Act, 1956 found general acceptance.

(iii) All possible efforts should be made to step up recruitment of the members of the minority communities in services subject to the observance of the relevant constitutional provisions.

(iv) More extensive use should be made of the Press Council for dealing with irresponsible writings in the Press.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF AIRPORT AT TIRUPATI

**\*226. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to construct an airport near Tirupati;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted for the purpose ; and

(c) what is the approximate cost of the scheme?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :** (a) A suggestion in this regard has been received and is under examination.

(b) A preliminary survey of site has been done by the Civil Aviation Department. A survey for traffic potential has also been carried out by the Indian Airlines.

(c) Rs. 33 lakhs approximately excluding cost of land and construction of approach road.

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**\*227. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :