

basic quota should be the basis of allotment. The hon. Member has reminded me that in this morning's newspapers the policy regarding imports has already been announced. I do not know whether it has already been announced or not. Let him look into it and if he is not satisfied, let him come to me. If there is any hardship, I will try to remove it.

**Shri R. Narayanasamy:** May I know why one distributor in Calcutta demands a premium of 12 annas per lb. without any voucher from one firm of Madras who has got an allotment of nearly 32 tons? I have got a documentary evidence concerning this with me?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** If he has done it, he has committed a crime. If the hon. Member gives me the particulars, we will make an investigation.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Sir, Question No. 1234 is important. It may be answered.

**Shri Vajpayee:** Question 1232A is also important. It may be answered.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Vajpayee.

#### Purchase of Aircrafts from Russia

+

\*1232-A. { **Shri Vajpayee:**  
**Shri Assar:**  
**Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri Subbiah Ambalam:**  
**Shri G. K. Jedhe:**  
**Shri Naldurgkar:**  
**Shri Hem Raj:**

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Government have purchased aircrafts from Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when these aircrafts are to come in India;

(d) whether Government have made any arrangement for training of the pilots for these aircrafts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A number of transport aircraft have been purchased from Russia for the Border Roads Development Board. A few of these are large aircraft; some are smaller—aircraft to be used by the Border Roads Development Board as well as for transport purposes by the Air Force. Some helicopters have also been purchased. Thus far only two of the big transport aircraft have arrived. Some more are expected later.

(d) and (e). Arrangements for training of I.A.F. personnel in the use of this special aircraft have been made both in Russia and in India.

**Shri Vajpayee:** In reply to a similar question in the Upper House, the Prime Minister was pleased to state that these planes are flying over strategic area and they are being accompanied by Russian pilots. May I know whether before purchasing these planes from Russia, any approaches were made to other friendly countries to sell these planes to India, I mean countries which have not copied the Chinese map recently showing Indian territory as territory of China?

12 hrs.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** These aircrafts were purchased after full enquiry and investigation in various countries when it was found that these were much more suited, considerably cheaper and the mode of payment was much more advantageous to us, because they are paid in trade terms and foreign exchange is not involved. But the main thing was they were most suitable for high altitude flying and they are good transport aircrafts which can carry high loads. Because of these various factors and the very advantageous terms that we got from the Soviet Government, we chose this. All the flying, of course, will be done naturally by the Indian Air Force

personnel. But for the initial two weeks, or may be three weeks, they require to be trained, if I may use that word, in the use of the special aircraft. It has got highly complicated machinery and we do not want to take any risks until people are used to them by flying with them in certain places like Leh, for instance. I do not think they are going anywhere else apart from Leh. After two weeks, or whatever the period may be, the Russian pilots and technicians who accompany them will go back.

**Shri Vajpayee:** Is it not really possible to get the Indian pilots trained by flying these planes at non-strategic areas?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Well, as a matter of fact, a number of Indian pilots have been sent to the Soviet Union and a number of them have come back after their training. The technicians and others, are going in batches. As for trying them elsewhere, the best trial, of course, is where they are likely to be used. It is not easy to reproduce the particular conditions of Western Ladakh and Himalayas elsewhere.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** Is it a fact that despite our claim of suitability of Ilyushins, now we have to extend the airport and at Leh aerodrome we have to dynamite one of the hills and it might affect one of the monasteries?

**Mr. Speaker:** How is it relevant?

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** It is claimed that Ilyushins can do "feather" landing. But it is found that despite the demand of the Indian Air Force, the Russians have stated that it cannot be done. Apart from that, it is stated that the aerodrome must be extended, which might cost crores and crores of rupees. I want to know whether it is a fact that in the process of extension this very important monastery will be affected.

**Mr. Speaker:** It does not arise out of this question.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I have not heard anything. Surely, it is going to be extended at Leh. But this is an old programme. But why the monastery should be affected by the extension of the aerodrome is not clear to me. The monastery is on the hill top some distance away.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Hem Barua wanted question No. 1234 to be taken up.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** May I point out that my question is next in the list and, in the normal course, I have to be called.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** What is the importance of his question.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is true that his question comes next. But I have stated that if occasionally an hon. Member gives me notice earlier, I can give an opportunity to call that question five minutes before the end of the Question Hour. Therefore, I thought I might give him an opportunity.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** If it is a matter of great public importance, the House can very well permit him to put his question. But what is the importance of this question? This is a matter where he can read the answer.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Sir, I have already written to you on this subject. It is a very important issue.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let him put it.

**Shri Bimal Ghose:** This relates to the resolution in the West Bengal Assembly.

#### Assam Assembly Resolution

\*1234. **Shri Hem Barua:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assam Assembly adopted unanimously a resolution on the 20th October, 1960 requesting the Central Government to "issue necessary directives in the interest of good relations and better