

मंत्रिस्तरीय बैठक में संयुक्त उद्यमों के लिये तीन परियोजनाओं अर्थात् ट्रेक्टर, रेल के माल-डिब्बे आदि और इलेक्ट्रानिक उद्योगों को चुना गया। औद्योगिक सहयोग सम्बन्धी भारतीय कार्यकारी दल इन तीन परियोजनाओं के सम्बन्ध में आवश्यक अनुवर्ती कार्यवाही कर रहा है।

तीनों देशों के करार के प्रधान समन्वय-कर्ताओं (सरकार के सचिव स्तर पर) की बैठक का शीघ्र ही नई दिल्ली में आयोजन करने का प्रस्ताव इस समय विचाराधीन है ताकि करार के अन्तर्गत सहयोग के ढांचे को सुदृढ़ बनाने के लिये किये जाने वाले आवश्यक उपायों पर विचार किया जा सके। इससे बाद 1977 के दौरान मंत्रिस्तरीय बैठक होने की संभावना है।

#### **Staff working in Export Inspection Agency**

776. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state

(a) whether Export Inspection Agency is treating its staff engaged in inspection work and laboratory work as two different categories and their working conditions and other facilities differ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) (a) and (b). The staff engaged in inspection work and the staff engaged in laboratory are shown separately under the various schemes. Their nature of duties varies from post to post depending upon the responsibilities and functions attached to them. The working hours also vary for the same reasons.

Staff carrying field and tour responsibilities draw travelling allowance and other allowances as may be applicable to their respective posts. The pay and other service conditions of all staff are governed by the sanctions issued by the Export Inspection Council from time to time.

#### **Indian Airlines Flight Connections to Madhya Pradesh**

777. SHRI PARDYUMNA K. BAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which Indian Airlines flight connections have been established recently to four places of Madhya Pradesh inspite of the adverse opinion of the experts submitted in a report earlier; and

(b) the extent of loss of revenue per month to Indian Airlines as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) In order to provide much needed air connections in Eastern Madhya Pradesh, the route of Indian Airlines daily HS-748 service Delhi-Gwalior-Bhopal-Indore-Bombay and return was re-adjusted by omitting Gwalior and including Jabalpur and Raipur on two days a week.

(b). Since Jabalpur and Raipur were linked only in May, 1977, the financial results are not yet known.

#### **Proposal to repeal Enemy Property Act, 1966**

778. SHRI BASHIR AHMAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state whether Government propose to repeal the Enemy Property Act, 1966?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN

DHARIA): There is no proposal to repeal the Enemy Property Act, 1968.

**Alleged Irregularities by India Tobacco Co.**

780. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Tobacco Co. Ltd. (formerly Imperial Tobacco Co. Ltd.) while purchasing the Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Co. did not disclose Rs. 90 lakhs customs duty claim neither to its shareholders nor to the Controller of Capital Issues while obtaining approval for purchase, defrauding the country to the extent of Rs. 90 lakhs in foreign exchange;

(b) whether the price paid (Rs. 2.15 crores) approved by Government is much higher than what was mentioned in the company's original application;

(c) whether the foreign shareholders of both the companies (India Tobacco Ltd. and Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Co. Ltd.) are the same; and

(d) whether the erstwhile Minister for Revenue and Banking Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Chairman, Central Board of Customs and Excise, against whom there are serious allegations had done this under verbal orders of the erstwhile Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) The India Tobacco Company Ltd. (ITC) and the Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Co. Ltd. (ILTDC) applied jointly on 27th April, 1974 for permission for the sale of the Indian business of ILTDC to ITC. The approval of the Government to this transaction was given on 24th February, 1976. During this period neither of them nor the audit-

ed balance sheets of the ILTDC disclosed any contingent liability on account of any claim against ILTDC for payment of customs duty.

The Madras Customs House had asked the ILTDC in October, 1972 to show cause why customs duty amounting to Rs. 90.77 lakhs should not be recovered from it on a consignment of unmanufactured Indian tobacco reimported by the Company in July, 1972 at Madras. This claim was disputed by the Company, but in May, 1975 the Madras Customs House confirmed the demand. The Company preferred an appeal against this demand in August, 1975 which was rejected in May, 1976. The Company filed a revision application which was also rejected in October, 1976.

The Company then represented the matter to the then Minister of Revenue and Banking in October, 1976. In this representation, the Company again pointed out that it had paid the central excise duty when the reimported consignment was cleared for manufacture of cigarettes. While considering this representation, it was noted that the Madras Customs House should not have released the reimported consignment without having charged the customs duty equal to the central excise duty leviable thereon. The reimported consignment had been taken into excise bond and cleared for use in the manufacture of cigarettes. On the basis of the use to which the reimported consignment was put, the correct customs duty equal to central excise duty leviable thereon should have been Rs. 11.4 lakhs at per Rs. 5 per k.g. The Madras Customs House had, however erroneously raised a demand for customs duty at the highest rate of central excise duty of Rs. 40 per kg. applicable to tobacco used in the manufacture of smoking mixtures. At the stage of consideration of the representation of the Company, these facts were taken into account. As the Company had paid the central excise duty leviable on tobacco used in the manufacture of cigarettes,