

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) to (d) A letter dated 10th March, 1997 complaining

about irregularities in the placement of supply order of Surface-Sized Off-set printing paper by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was received from Shri Om Pal Singh 'Nidar', M.P.

The gist of complaints and the explanation offered by IGNOU is given below:—

| Sl. No. | Gist of irregularities alleged by Shri Om Pal Singh "Nidar" | Explanation of the University |
|---------|--|--|
| 1. | Some bidders were allowed to participate in the tender, despite lacking adequate manufacturing capacity to produce Surface Sized Off-set Printing Paper. | Quotations were invited exclusively from manufacturing firms. The University was satisfied about the manufacturing capacity of the bidder selected as it had supplied the requisite quantity of Surface Sized Offset Printing Paper during the previous year without any constraint. |
| 2. | Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPCL), being a Public Sector undertaking should have been given preference in awarding the supply order. | As against the lowest price of Rs. 22,712 per metric tonne (PMT) quoted by the successful bidder, the rate quoted by the HPCL was Rs. 30,555 PMT. Public Sector undertakings being entitled to a price preference of 10% over the price quoted by competing units, the same was extended to HPCL. HPCL held negotiations with IGNOU. Paper Purchasing Committee but could not match the lowest quoted rates with 10% increase thereupon. Hence, HPCL's tender bid was rejected by IGNOU. |
| 3. | The supplier did not fulfil the specified paper quality parameters set by IGNOU in its Notice inviting tender. | Sample of paper supplied by the successful bidder was sent for laboratory tests by IGNOU to Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur. The Institute has certified that the paper samples fulfilled the prescribed specifications. |
| 4. | There have been "underhand dealings" in the placement of supply contract with the successful bidder by IGNOU. | The University awarded the supply order to the successful bidder for having quoted the lowest rates and the previous year's performance of this bidder as supplier of Surface Sized Offset Printing Paper. |

The allegations are being examined by the Government in the light of the explanation tendered by the University and additional information has also been sought.

Universities being autonomous bodies enjoy a separate legal entity and take decisions independently on entering/cancelling contractual agreements; accordingly the power to cancel contracts etc. lie with the Universities.

[*Translation*]

Fuel to Indian Airlines

900. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased

to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to make available fuel to Indian Airlines at international market price;

(b) if so, the main characteristics of the proposal; and

(c) the amount likely to be sent by Indian Airlines annually as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The proposal is under consideration of the Government.