

from 1974. The Hubli-Dharwar Municipal Committee gave 341 acres of land for the purpose free of cost. Keeping in view the projected patten of operation of Indian Airlines and the low priority accorded to the scheme, the work was postponed. A sum of Rs 2.58 lakhs has so far been incurred on the collection of material, construction of temporary godown etc.

(d) and (e) A sum of Rs. 0.25 lakhs was provided in the Budget Estimates for 1978-79 and Rs 1 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimates for 1979-80 on this account. However, Hubli is one of the 50 population centres recommended by an Expert Committee for operation of Third Level Air Services in the country. The recommendations of the Expert Committee are under examination of Government. The project for an aerodrome at Hubli will be pursued as soon as Government takes a decision on the above project.

#### Amount paid to Informers

4485 SHRI BALDEV SINGH JAS-ROTHIA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the income from raids by the Income Tax Authorities;

(b) for the last three years what measures have been taken to invite more informers,

(c) the amount of money paid to the informers during three years year-wise; and

(d) whether Government have retreated from their promise made with such individuals that they will get 10 per cent of the illegal stock etc. seized from those found having concealed income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIKARULLAH): (a) The Income-tax Authorities seized prima facie unaccounted assets of the following value

in the searches conducted during the last three financial years.—

1975-76	Rs 2635 lakhs
1976-77	Rs 3571 lakhs
1977-78	Rs 353 lakhs

(b) to (d). The grant of rewards to informants is governed by the guidelines laid down in 1973. Reward, not exceeding 10 per cent of extra taxes actually realised, is granted if the taxes are directly attributable to the information supplied by the informants. According to the information presently available, about Rs. 12.68 lakhs was paid as reward to informants during the financial years 1974-75 and 1975-76, about Rs 12.13 lakhs during the financial year 1976-77 and about Rs. 13.23 lakhs during the financial year 1977-78.

#### Income-Tax cases against Birla Companies

4486 SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) the number of income tax cases against Birla companies;

(b) the steps taken by Government to clear up the cases; and

(c) the number of prosecutions secured so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIKARULLAH): (a) According to information presently available, 524 income-tax assessments and 117 Sur-tax assessments are pending as on 28th February, 1979 in the cases of Birla Companies. Besides, 160 penalty proceedings under the Income-tax Act are also pending,

(b) The cases of Birla Companies are centralised for speedy disposal with a few Officers in the Central Charges at Bombay, Bangalore, Calcutta and Delhi. The progress in these cases is