

(d) The general question of restoring the concession, regarding grant of three advance increments to technical personnel working in the Defence Establishments, on their acquiring engineering degrees, has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance and final decision would be taken as early as possible. However, in the meantime, the following measures have already been taken to remove stagnation in the grade of Foremen and other feeder grades for promotion to the post of Jr. Scientific Officer:—

(i) 153 posts in the category of Foreman, Chief Draughtsman and Senior Scientific Assistant were upgraded to that of Junior Scientific Officer and persons promoted as Jr. Scientific Officers *in situ*.

(ii) 40 posts of Principal Foreman in the scale of Rs. 840—1200 have been created to provide promotional avenues to those foremen, who are stagnating at the maximum of the grades, but are otherwise not eligible for promotion to the grade of Jr. Scientific Officer.

News item Captioned "Flying Standing on IA"

8153. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Flying standing on IA" appearing in the 'Times of India', New Delhi dated 26th March, 1982;

(b) if so, his reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps which he proposes to take to set matters right?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three Indian Airlines officers against whom *prima facie* case was established through a preliminary enquiry, for violat-

ing the regulations, have been suspended pending disciplinary proceedings which have already been initiated.

(c) Strict instructions have been reiterated to all concerned in Indian Airlines to follow the safety regulations rigidly.

Introduction of Auction Platforms for Virginia Tobacco

8154. SHRI R. MUTHUKUMARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the present system of making Virginia tobacco is causing untold misery to the growers and they are deprived of legitimate prices for their produce;

(b) have the Central Government and Tobacco Board introduced Auction Platforms for Virginia tobacco etc. in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to help the farmers to realise maximum price possible;

(c) if the answer to (b) above be in the negative what is the reasons thereof and when are Government going to take effective steps to introduce Auction platform system for tobacco; and

(d) have Government received any representation from the packers against introduction of Auction Platforms and if so, what is Government's reaction thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). At present the growers bring their tobacco to the buying platforms of the buying companies for sale. The auction system for sale of virginia tobacco is proposed to be introduced first in Karnataka and thereafter in Andhra Pradesh. Efforts are being made to introduce auction system for sale of virginia tobacco in Karnataka at the earliest possible.

(d) No, Sir.