

### Campaign by certain countries Against Development of Main Battle Tank

2263. SHRI M.V. CHANDRA SHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister] of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it has been reported in the press that certain countries with the intention of selling defence equipment to India have launched a concerted campaign against the development of main battle tank to be inducted into the Indian Army in the Nineties ;

(b) if so, whether it has also been further reported that the series of anti-MBT press reports are calculated attempts to demoralise Indian Defence scientists, and scuttle their efforts aimed at producing an engine suitable for the MBT; and

(c) if so, whether due to the criticism, Government are likely to change the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): Yes, Sir. A report by United News of India (UNI) to this effect was published in Evening News of 'The Hindustan Times' on 26 October, 1982.

(b) Yes, Sir. The above news-item reports on this aspect also.

(c) No, Sir. The development of MBT is being progressed with full vigour.

### Indo-Belgian Credit Agreement

2246. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether a Rs. 7 crore Belgian credit agreement was recently signed in New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the terms of credit;

(c) how the loan is to be utilised; and

(d) what is the extent of adverse balance of payments against India at present and the annual import-export trade with that country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c) An agreement was signed with Belgium on 17-1-83 whereby Belgium will provide financial assistance of BF 350 million (approximately Rs. 7 crores) to India. This loan is interest-free and is repayable over a period of 30 years, including a moratorium of 10 years. Out of this amount BF 60 million would represent Belgian assistance towards rescheduling of India's loan debt service for 1982. BF 290 million have been provided for the purchase of Belgian capital goods or industrial equipment and services related thereto. BF 150 million of this loan will be allocated for making payments due to bell Telephone Manufacturing Company in Antwerp, Belgium, in accordance with their contract with Indian Telephone Industries who are setting up a cross-bar telephone switching equipment factory in Rae Bareilly (U.P.).

(d) The latest information on balance of payments (current account)

for the financial year is available only for 1979-80. The net invisibles in 1979-80 were Rs. 4.39 crores. On this basis, the deficit

in the balance of payments (current account) was Rs. 92.45 crores in 1979-80. The annual export-import trade with that country is as follows:—

Year	Export (Value in crores)	Import	Balance of Trade
1978-79	227.85	356.53	—128.68
1979-80	166.85	263.69	—96.84
1980-81	148.25	306.04	—157.79
1981-82 (Prov.)	157.83	509.86	—352.03

### Flying Clubs and Security arrangements for Haryana Aerodromes

2265. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item "are aerodromes meant for smugglers only" published in the issue of Hindi daily "Nav Bharat Times" dated 26th December, 1982 highlighting the lack of any activity in the aerodromes built by Haryana Government in six cities of the State;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that there are no flying club activities in these aerodromes;

(c) is it also a fact that they lack adequate security arrangements; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to put these aerodromes to proper use ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Flying/Gliding Club activities are available at Hissar, Karnal and Pinjore.

(c) and (d). Since these aerodromes belong to Haryana Government, the security arrangements and also any use of the aerodrome is the concern of the State Government of Haryana.

### Development of Wing-Missile Skill by IAF.

2266. SHRI HANAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IAF has developed wing-missile skill;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have approved the programme ; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) :

(a) to (d) The reference is, perhaps, to the on-going project of modifying the Jaguar aircraft to enable it to carry air-to-air missiles. This project is being co-ordinated by the IAF and several agencies, including HAL, are participating in the project. The project is at an advanced stage of development. It will not be in public interest to give further details.