

**THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A reply was sent to the Member of Parliament concerned that the matter was being investigated.

(c) An inquiry has since been held by the Joint Secretary and the result of his findings was that there was no valid ground for complaint against Deputy Director (Statistics).

#### **Deep Strike Aircraft**

4586. **SHRI MADHU LIMAYE:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to acquire for defence purposes deep strike aircraft like Mig. 23 or Phantom and latest version of Mirage etc. from Russia or Western countries;

(b) if so, the type of aircraft, the number and the estimated price; and

(c) whether Indian Aircraft factories can produce such aircraft on licence in the near future?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM):** (a) to (c). Suitable Aircraft from available sources are under assessment/evaluation. The matter is still in an exploratory stage.

#### **Assistants on Deputation to India Supply Mission**

4587. **SHRI RAMJI RAM:** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the tenure of an Assistant on deputation to India Supply Mission in London/Washington; and

(b) whether Assistants of the Supply Missions enjoy a longer stay abroad than the Assistants of the External Affairs Ministry in London/Washington?

**THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR):** (a) The normal tenure of posting of Assistants in the India Supply

Missions in London and Washington is 3 years.

(b) No, Sir. However, in cases involving public interest this period is extended or curtailed.

#### **Role of R.P.F.C. Bihar as Inspector in Prosecution Field**

4588. **SHRI YOGESH CHANDRA MURMU:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Patna becomes the complainant in the prosecutions filed instead of inspectors, as contemplated under the relevant Act and whether the Regional Commissioner in the capacity of the Inspector filed all those prosecutions in the past entailing lot of complications;

(b) if so, the circumstances which led the Regional Commissioner to become the complainant instead of the Inspectors; and

(c) whether a number of cases against Niranjana Mica Supply Company, Masnodih Mining Industries, C.P.N. Singh Factory were filed at the same time; and if so, the reasons why these cases were not filed when first default was detected?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):** The Provident Fund authorities have reported as under:

(a) and (b). As the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner is also an Inspector appointed under Section 13(1) of the Employees Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 by notification in the official Gazette for the whole State of Bihar, he can also be a complainant in filing the prosecution cases. As such, the then Regional Commissioner, Bihar in the capacity of the Provident Fund Inspector filed complaints in the past. No complications in these court cases however arose consequent on the filing of the complaints by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner.

(c) Yes. These cases were not filed when first default was detected because,

despite several visits by Provident Fund Inspector to the establishments/factories the full details for initiating prosecution such as particulars of the person(s) in charge and responsible for conduct of the business etc. could not be collected from the management earlier.

#### Supply of Arms to Arabian Countries

4589. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India supplied military spare parts and other defence materials and war equipments to various Arab countries during the recent Arab-Israel war;

(b) if so, the details about the nature and quantum of such assistance given to the Arab countries;

(c) whether such military supplies were given to the Arab countries by India of her own or being requested by the Arab countries; and

(d) whether India extended any other direct help to the Arab countries during the recent Arab-Israel war; and if so, the facts thereabout?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKA): (a) to (d). Only military spare parts and one item of Defence stores were issued at the request of the Arab countries.

It is not in the public interest to give further information and details.

#### Rate of Interest on Employees Provident Fund

4591. SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the present rate of interest on accounts of subscriber contributing 8 per cent of their earnings to Employees Provident Fund; and

(b) how it compares with the rate of interest paid by Banks, National Saving Scheme and Unit Trust?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): The Employees' Provident Fund Authorities have reported as under:—

(a) 6 per cent per annum.

(b) The maximum current rate of interest

(i) paid by Nationalised Banks on fixed deposit for a period over 3 years is 7 per cent per annum and over 5 years is 7.25 per cent per annum; and

(ii) on 7-Years National Savings Certificate (IVth issue—new series) is 7.25 per cent per annum. The Unit Trust dividend for the year ended 30th June 1973 was 8.5 per cent per annum.

#### भारतीय प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा ब्रिटेन की राजकुमारी को उपहार भेंट करना

4592. श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यप: क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या प्रधान मंत्री ने ब्रिटेन की राजकुमारी को अभी हाल में "मोती जड़ी मेज" जिसका डिजाइन ताजमहल की कला के अनुकरण पर तैयार किया गया था, भेंट की है;

(ख) क्या उक्त उपहार प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा व्यक्तिगत रूप से भयवा शासकीय स्तर पर भेजा गया है;

(ग) क्या कीमती उपहारों को भेंट करने से पूर्व रिजर्व बैंक आफ इंडिया की अनुमति प्राप्त की जाती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या उक्त उपहार के संबंध में भी इस प्रक्रिया का पालन किया गया था?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेश पाल सिंह): (क) भारत की प्रधान मंत्री ने एक मेज उपहार में दी जिसका ऊरी सतह