

(d) whether there was any political motivation behind the attempt at hijacking?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):** (a) and (b). An attempt was made to hijack an Air-India Jumbo jet flight on 25th December, 1974 between Sector Beirut/Rome by a Canadian national, named Joseph Homola. Under instructions from the Commander of the aircraft Captain A. M. Kapur, the flight crew, Captain B. S. Sandhu, First Officer, Shri S. K. Dasgupta, Flight Engineer and Shri N. M. Pardivala, Inflight Supervisor overpowered the hijacker.

(c) Joseph Homola was born in Czechoslovakia and migrated to Canada about six years ago. He held a Canadian passport.

(d) The attempt did not appear to be politically motivated.

#### **Financial Assistance to S.T.C**

1756. **PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation, which had previously a position of surplus funds has now to resort to bank borrowing, to manage its export-import operations;

(b) if so, whether there were discussions between the S.T.C. and Reserve Bank of India authorities regarding financial assistance to the S.T.C.; and

(c) if so, what will be the quantum of immediate assistance that will be available to the S.T.C. from the bank?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):** (a) Given the large turnover, bank borrowings which is a recognized

method of financing operations has already been a part of STC's financial planning.

(b) No discussions have been held regarding financial assistance to the STC with the RBI. No discussions are also required with the RBI for borrowings from commercial banks which is a normal feature of STC's operations.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Development of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Tourist Resort**

1760 **PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to develop the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as a tourist resort for Indian and foreign tourists during the last three years; and

(b) the estimated revenue earned as a result of those steps?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):** (a) Due to the restriction on the entry of tourists into the Islands, the development of facilities in the Islands could not be considered in the Central Sector during the years 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Policy of LIC in making Investment in Large Industrial Houses**

1761. **SHRI B. S. BHURA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy of Life Insurance Corporation in making investments in large and high yield.