

- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Use of IAF Planes by Former Defence Minister

3420. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given by USQ No. 1314 on 4th Jun, 1998 regarding "Use of IAF Aircraft by Ministers" and state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the use of the Air Force aircraft by the Former Defence Minister;

(b) whether the places visited by him have any Defence relevance and if so, the official work transacted there;

(c) whether the Government propose to frame rules to check the misuse of Air Force aircraft by Defence Ministers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the other steps the Government propose to take for the recovery of the expenditure involved in such trips ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The total expenditure incurred on the use of VIP flights of the IAF by former Defence Minister works out to Rs. 41.57 crores.

(b) All the journeys referred to in the reply given have been stated as official.

(c) and (d) The existing instructions which have been issued with the approval of the Prime Minister are considered sufficient to check misuse of the VIP flights of the IAF aircraft.

National Security Council

3421. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of composition and terms of reference of the National Security Council and the subsequent Task Force set up therefor;

(b) the number of meetings held so far since their inception and the outcome of the discussions held therein, meeting-wise; and

(c) the time by which the Task Force is likely to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Government had set up a National

Security Council (NSC) on August 24, 1990 with the Prime Minister as its Chairman and the Ministers of Defence, Finance, Home Affairs and External Affairs as its Members. The main purpose of the National Security Council was to evolve an integrated approach to policy making as it affects national security, taking into account the linkages between the evolving external situation in the political, military and economic fields and our domestic situation.

2. On April 14, 1998, the Government constituted a Task Force with Shri K.C. Pant as its Chairman and Shri Jaswant Singh, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as Member and Air Cmde, Jasjit Singh, Director (IDSA) as Convenor to work out the constitution, role and functions of the proposed National Security Council.

3. The NSC met only once in December 1990 and has remained largely non-functional. In the first meeting the NSC discussed general questions on the role and functions of the NSC and matters regarding Task Forces concerned with specific areas of security.

4. The Task Force has already submitted its report to the Government.

Request of Jet Airways

3422. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the licensee Jet Airways has urged the Government to formulate a comprehensive consistent and coherent civil aviation policy and implement it in a transparent manner;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up an independent regulatory aviation authority; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) After inviting suggestions/views of aviation experts and the various airline operators, a comprehensive draft National Policy on Civil Aviation is under formulation by the Government.

[Translation]

Export of Defence Products

3423. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope in the country for increasing the export of defence products;

(b) if so, whether any perspective plan has been formulated for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?