

Asylum to Burmese Hijackers

1850. SHRI MITRA SEN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two Burmese hijackers now in a Calcutta Jail have requested for political asylum in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND OF BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government views hijacking as a serious offence and the two Burmese students are being tried India under the relevant laws. Their petition for asylum can only be considered after the judicial process has been completed.

Variation on Area of States

1851. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the data about the area of the States as computed by the Surveyor General of India is at variance with that of the data computed by the revenue authorities of the States:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to review the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) No such variation has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c). Questions do not arise.

Reservation of Regalia/Heirloom Items of Erstwhile Rulers

1852. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether regalia/heirloom items of the erstwhile rulers are items of State property in their custody;

(b) if so, whether the items contain valuable and world famous diamonds, collection of exquisite emeralds worth crores of rupees owned by the Nizam of Hyderabad and others; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to display these items in the new Jewellery Gallery of the National Museum and charge special entry fee with a view to collect revenue for the museum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Items of regalia which were declared as State Properties were allowed to be retained by the former rulers for use on ceremonial occasions subject to inspection by the authorities concerned.

(b) At the time of settlement of private properties of former rulers exact evaluation lists of various items of their private/state properties were not draw up.

(c) No, Sir.

Criminal Appeals Pending in the Supreme Court

1853. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: