

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (c). Public Sector Undertakings are expected to follow the rules and directions of Government in regard to the use of foreign exchange. All managements of public sector are required to monitor the use of Foreign Exchange carefully. In the absence of specific information as to which cases of alleged misuse are referred to in the question, it is not possible to furnish the details asked for in (b) and (c).

SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA : What are the rules and directions of the government in regard to the use of foreign exchange issued to the public sector undertakings?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: The directions and the rules are the same which are contained in or which are part of the FERA. They should not be violated and we have asked them to monitor them strictly; that I have already said. Mal practices which arise out of violation of the FERA should not be indulged in. These are the general outlines.

SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: There is a company called 'K.F.W. - a West German Government Financial Institution. This company has extended no less than 430 million DM, that is, amounting to about Rs. 258 crores for a gigantic expansion project of Neyveli Lignite Corporation. This Neyveli Lignite Corporation, according to our information, is misusing this money by giving orders for spreaders and bucket wheel excavators to a particular West German Company called 'MAN' and its Indian counterpart WMI. May I know whether the Ministry of Finance have received any representation from the MPs of this House or from other quarters regarding the alleged misuse of foreign exchange by Neyveli Lignite Corporation; if so, is any impartial enquiry going to be instituted?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: It should have been better and I would have been in a

better position if the hon. member would have mentioned about the question. But, certainly, a complaint was received and we had examined it in consultation with the Department of coal; and we found that there was no basis in the complaint. Basically, it had to do with two German firms which had tendered for supplying something. This much information I have got, that this complaint was examined in consultation with the Department of Coal and it was found that there was no basis for it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister as to how many such Public Undertakings are there about which you have been receiving complaints of misuse of foreign exchange for the past one or two years, and out of them, in how many cases inquiries were conducted and how many were found guilty? Which are the Undertakings against whom charges of misuse of foreign exchange have been established?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated that if we had received a specific complaint, it would have been possible to give complete information. Generally speaking, we have not received such complaints. I had informed the hon. Member regarding one specific complaint. He had one more complaint in which some technical lapse was found.

MR. SPEAKER: After you get the information, let us know about it.

[*English*]

Dr. P. Vallal Paruman. The hon. Member is absent.

Shri P.R.S. Venkatesan.

#### Launching of Indian Satellites by Soviet Booster Rocket

\*856 SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN†:  
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether two Indian satellites are likely to be launched by a Soviet booster rocket;

(b) the details of benefit likely to be derived from the two Indian satellites;

(c) the likely date by which the launch will take place; and

(d) the total expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARA-YANAN): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

#### Statement

(a) The first in the series of Indian Remote Sensing Satellites (IRS-1A) will be launched by a Soviet Rocket Carrier. The second in the series, IRS-1B, will also be launched from abroad. However, details regarding the launch including the launch vehicle selection and schedule of launching will be decided later.

(b) The Indian Remote Sensing Satellite is expected to provide high quality satellite data for use in a variety of disciplines, such as Forestry, Hydrology, Geology and Agriculture.

In the area of forestry, classification of different types of trees in forests, information on their stages of growth, etc., can be obtained leading to estimates of forest wealth and a continuous monitoring of the increase/reduction in forest cover. Also valuable information on water resources including information on snow cover, surface runoffs, reservoir areas, drainage network, flood mapping etc., can be obtained. Hydro-geological features will provide information on ground water. These data would assist in the effective planning for use of water resources.

Also, geological information from Satellite Remote Sensing will provide data

on structural geology, mineral exploration, mapping and map updating. In coastal oceanography, identification and location of sea food, surveillance of coastal erosion, coastal currents, sedimentation, marine pollution, etc., will be possible through use of appropriate satellite data.

Useful information can be obtained from IRS imageries in relevant areas of agriculture, such as cultivation of land area covered by various crops, areas under different types of irrigation, soil type and soil association, range land, waste land etc. Useful information on agricultural statistics such as crop yield prediction and damages caused by water stress, nutrient stress, etc., will also be available.

IRS will not, however, be directly useful in Meteorology related observations.

Thus, a large data base could be created in the areas of Forestry, Hydrology, Geology and Agriculture for monitoring and for effective use of national natural resources and for the protection of environment.

(c) The launch of IRS-1A is expected to take place during the current year 1987. The launch of IRS-1B is nominally scheduled for 1989/90 but will be finally decided after reviewing the performance of IRS-1A.

(d) The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is to pay Rs. 7.50 crores to USSR Foreign Trade Agency LICENSINTORG (LIT) for the launch of IRS-1A and other related services.

SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: I want to know whether we will be in a position to create facilities for launching of the above satellite within our country.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Yes, we will be in a position to launch the satellite with our own launch vehicle which we are developing. But IRS-1A and the next flight of IRS-1B will be from abroad. By early 'nineties we hope to develop the capability of the PSLV launch for launching our own IRS Satellite.

**SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN:** I want to know whether the Southern region is more suitable for this purpose.

**SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN:** Yes, already our launching station is in Sriharikota which is in the South. We have also got launching facilities in Trivandrum.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri C. Madhav Reddi. The hon. Member is absent.

Shri Krishna Rao.

**Amendment to Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**

\* 858. **SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring an amendment to the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;

(b) if so, the time by which it will be introduced; and

(c) the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI):** (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c). A proposal to amend the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 is under the consideration of the Government.

**SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:** What are the steps taken to prevent smoke pollution of motor vehicles in cities like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Bangalore?

**SHRI Z.R. ANSARI:** Under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, certain steps have been taken with regard to the monitoring of the pollution levels as well as fixing the standards for air quality in different locations.

As far as the monitoring stations are concerned, 43 monitoring stations have been established for air pollution monitoring at different locations including Hyderabad, Cochin, Baroda, Agra, and different places. These are the monitoring stations which have been established by the Central Pollution Control Board.

Then there is National Environment Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur. It has established certain monitoring stations at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Cochin, Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Nagpur and Madras.

After passing the Environment Protection Act the standards for the air quality and water quality are being fixed for different specific industries. For industries like caustic soda, man-made fibre, oil refineries, sugar, thermal power plants, cotton textiles, composite woollen mills, cement, electroplating, dyes, etc. the standards have been fixed. For other industries, on a priority basis, the preparation of standards is under process.

**SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:** Which is the largest polluted city in India in motor vehicles?

**SHRI Z.R. ANSARI:** I do not have the comparative figures of different cities. But I can say that as far as air pollution is concerned, Delhi and Bombay are in competition with each other.

**DR. DATTA SAMANT :** Government is considering to amend the Air Pollution Control Act. We are facing the problem in Bombay. The existing old factories like Union Carbide, Digvijay Cement Mills, are taking advantage of the amendment even before it is done, and are trying to close down their units and shift them outside where thousands of workers will be retrenched. I am facing the same problem in three of four factories. They are taking the issue to the municipality or somewhere. Though the Government is not allowing them to close the units, on the plea of pollution they are doing it. So laws are