

delegations come. Take the case of tobacco.

SHRI ATAL BIHARĪ VAJPAYEE:
Again tobacco.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:
This is the practice. A large number of delegations come. They go to the centres and they establish contacts with the producers and they leave. It is not that the entire trade between USSR and Government of India is through public sector agencies. Certain trade is through public sector agencies and certain trade is through private sector agencies. Therefore, how we come into the picture I am unable to understand.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: May I know whether there is a shortage of drugs in India presently and whether the export of drugs to USSR will not add to the difficulties and aggravate the position of local drug suppliers? With the drug industry presently in the doldrums, how does the Government propose to meet and honour the extra drug commitments required for export purposes to USSR?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN:
It is obvious from the fact that there has been a steady increase in the export of drugs from this country. Therefore, there is no shortage of these drugs. May be, at some time or other, there might be some shortage of some particular special drug. That is another thing. But as far as the total requirement of drugs is concerned, there is no difficulty and it will be possible for us to meet the total requirement of USSR and other countries where we are also exporting drugs.

IA Avro Plane Crashlanded at Mangalore

*507. **SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines Avro plane crashlanded at Bajpe airport, Mangalore on 19th August, 1980; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the crash landing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANRAKAR): (a) Indian Air lines HS-748 (AVRO) aircraft VT-DXF, while operating flight IC-557 (Bangalore-Mangalore) overshot the runway while landing at Mangalore at 1502 hours on 19th August, 1981.

(b) The accident is under investigation by an Inspector of Accident appointed by the Director General of Civil Aviation under Rule 71 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
It was a providential escape not only for all the passengers but also for the Finance Minister of Karnataka when the accident took place. The awful condition of the Mangalore runway has been brought to the notice of the Authorities. The Mangalore Airport runway is not at all sufficient for the operation of the Avro during the monsoon. Particularly Boeing cannot be operated during the monsoon season. It has been stated on the floor of the House that a new runway would be constructed very soon.

May I know from the Hon. Minister when the new construction will be commenced? Any delay in the execution of the construction will be disastrous. What would be the amount that would be spent for the construction of the new runway?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): It is true that there is certain difficulty in the operation of aircraft so far as Mangalore is concerned. During the rainy season, the 737-Boeing was not operated. It is only the Avro aircraft that operates there at Mangalore airport and in that also a lot of care and caution is taken. The runway is, no doubt, old and, therefore, it is under the consideration

of the Government whether the runway should be extended or whether a parallel runway can be constructed there.

So far as the question of extension of the runway is concerned, it is likely to cost more or less the same amount as it will cost for constructing a parallel runway. Therefore, the question of construction of a parallel runway at Mangalore is under consideration of the Government and the survey has been conducted in this regard.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: My specific question is what would be the cost of the runway. Not only that. It has been brought to the notice of the authorities, by the Commercial Pilots Association that the basic navigational facilities are absent at Mangalore airport. If that is so, what are the basic navigational facilities that have been provided? What efforts have been made in this regard? Not only that. What amount has been granted for the development works at Mangalore airport and also for the construction of the building? May I know from the Hon. Minister the actual cost of the runway that is going to be constructed?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: The cost of the construction of a parallel runway can only be known after the survey is conducted and the estimate is prepared. But the intention of the Government is, no doubt, to construct a parallel runway to meet the present difficulty there.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: It is not a question of Mangalore only. In most of the airports, runways are in the worst condition and they are not in a position to receive the Jets also. In view of this, what is the thinking of the Ministry about the construction and re-construction of most of the airports for receiving the fast-growing traffic?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: A general survey of all the airports in this

country is being conducted from time to time to find out the deficiencies or difficulties on the particular airports and I would like to assure the Hon. Member that wherever such difficulties are found, steps would be taken to improve the facilities and also to improve the runway and the airport so that the present difficulties, if any, should be removed.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Exploration of Gold in Orissa

*505. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for exploration of gold fields in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what is the estimated yield of gold in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a): The Geological Survey of India and the Directorate of Mining and Geology, Government of Orissa, are engaged in exploration for gold in parts of Orissa State.

(b): The current explorations are of a preliminary nature. Reserves of gold will be known only after completion of the detailed investigations.

Difficulty Experienced by Engineering Exporters

*506. **SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Engineering exporters are facing difficulty due to recent twenty per cent hike in steel prices;

(b) whether it is proposed to liberalise the scheme for distribution of