

please understand that this is only an endeavour to see that there is greater and better collection of revenues both for the Centre and the States.

श्री छांगुर राम : इस विवरण-पत्र में लिखा है : "विशेषतः अप्रत्यक्ष कराधान जांच समिति (ज्ञा समिति) ने इस मामले की समीक्षा की है और उस पर कुछ सिफारिशों की हैं।" मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ज्ञा समिति ने इस सम्बन्ध में क्या सिफारिशों की हैं। क्या 16-17 सितम्बर को हुए मुख्य मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में ज्ञा समिति की सिफारिशों पर विचार हुआ या नहीं, यदि नहीं हुआ, तो क्यों नहीं हुआ और अगर हुआ, तो किन किन सिफारिशों पर हुआ ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, the reference to the Wanchoo Committee was in reply to an answer.

So far as the Jha Committee recommendations are concerned, they went into the whole question of income-taxes, not only the sales tax but also the excise levy, octroi and others. Now those recommendations have been examined by the Government and some action has been taken and they, wherever implemented, have been from time to time placed on the table of the House.

The consideration which came before the Conference was as to how to rationalise the sales-tax. In this respect, some of the suggestions which I made and the Prime Minister who inaugurated the Conference made, were that with a view to streamline the administration, with a view to prevent corruption, with a view to increase the collections and all that, we may transfer more items from the sales-tax to the levy of additional excise duty in lieu of sales tax, just as we have now the sugar, textiles and tobacco and so on.

The Conference took a decision that in respect of life-saving drugs and vanaspati, they will have additional excise duty in lieu of sales-tax.

Then they referred the whole question to a Committee of the Chief Ministers and we are now collecting all the information with regard to the actual collections in respect of various items from the States and after we collect the statistics, that Committee will meet again and take a decision.

Fitness of Jammu Airport for Receiving Boeing Aircraft

*63 SHRI G. L. DOGRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) when the runway in Jammu Airport will be rendered fit for receiving a Boeing Aircraft; and

(b) what steps his Ministry are taking to achieve this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) It is likely to be completed by mid 1982.

(b) Necessary estimates are being prepared.

SHRI G. L. DOGRA: Which is the Department that is preparing the estimates? Is it the International Airport Authority or is it the CPWD?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): It is prepared by the Department.

SHRI G. L. DOGRA: In case of Amritsar, the estimate prepared by the International Airport Authority is much less than CPWD and the time required is also much less. In view of the specialised authority, the International Airport Authority which you have created why don't you refer it to the same?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: It is true that according to the rough estimates, the estimate prepared by the-

International Airport Authority is less than the estimates prepared by the CPWD. But, Sir, it is a question to be decided whether this work will be undertaken by the CPWD or the International Airport Authority. Normally, Sir, till today this work is being undertaken by the CPWD.

SHRI G. L. DOGRA: I would like to ask another question. The hands of CPWD are already full even in the case roads also, construction of which is the legitimate duty of the CPWD. You are not the specialised authority. The Border Roads Organisation makes roads of strategic importance. When you have a separate authority, why don't you refer this question to the same? Why should you create a vested interest? Keeping in view the cost and the convenience and expediency of the people, you decide this matter why should a particular Department hold you at ransom?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: It is true that the International Airport Authority has developed an infra-structure for carrying on this kind of work. As a matter of fact, we are doing this kind of work in foreign countries also. But, Sir, it is another question as to whether the CPWD would like to carry on the work themselves or they would like to give it to International Airport Authority because, as I said, normally it is the CPWD which carries this kind of work.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Will the Honourable Minister state the reasons for delaying the extension of the runway? We have been carrying it so far for the last five to ten years.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, this strengthening of the runway and the development of the airport at Jammu has got a long story and it is only to cut short the long story that we gave the answer that a final estimate is being prepared now.

Sir, I am cutting the long story of delay.

I have in my original answer said that the final estimate is being prepared now and my predecessor Shri J. B. Patnaik gave the assurance to this House in March this year. We hope to complete this work by June, 1982.

श्री धर्मदास शास्त्री : मैं आपके द्वारा मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जम्मू एक ट्रस्टि सेंटर है वहाँ सी पी डब्ल्यू डी और इंटरनेशनल एअरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी का झगड़ा जो है उसका फैसला हमारे मंत्री महोदय जोकि इतने डायनेमिक है, वे नहीं कर पाए तो उनकी डायनेमिज्म कैसे काम आयेगी ?

श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा : मैं तो इस काम को बहुत जल्दी करना चाहता हूँ लेकिन कुछ दिक्कतें हमारे सामने आई हैं जिनकी वजह से हमें एस्टीमेट को रिवाइज करना पड़ रहा है। जैसे ही रिवाइज्ड एस्टीमेट की सँकलन हमको मिल जायेगी, हम इस काम को जल्दी से जल्दी पूरा करेंगे।

Proposal regarding Sales Tax Relief for Small and Medium Newspapers

*64. **SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal under consideration of the Government of India regarding sales tax relief for small and medium newspapers; and

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b). In terms of Entry No. 92 of List I of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, Central Government alone has the power to levy sales tax on newspapers. No sales tax is being levied on newspapers. Hon'ble Member has presumably in mind the question of