

(b) if so, how the local units producing synthetic yarn would be affected thereby ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA) : (a) The Textile Policy, announced by Government in Parliament in March, 1981 envisaged a review of fiscal levies on man-made fibres and yarns. Accordingly, the rates of customs and excise duties applicable to various fibres and yarns were reviewed and adjustments in the rates of duties, wherever necessary, were made as part of the 1982 Budget proposals. In the case of synthetic fibres, import duty on acrylic fibre was reduced by way of a reduction in the additional duty of customs (countervailing duty) from Rs. 37.50 per kg. to Rs. 30 per kg. with effect from 28-2-1982.

(b) While effecting the aforesaid changes, due care was taken to ensure that the changes in duty structure do not adversely affect the indigenous units producing acrylic fibre.

X-RAY INSPECTION MACHINES IMPORTED BY AIR INDIA

***312. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India had imported six U.S. X-Ray inspection machines for captive use;

(b) if so, when these machines were imported and the amount of foreign exchange involved in their import;

(c) whether it is a fact that these machines have not at all been used;

(d) whether it is also a fact that now the Air India proposes to sell these machines; and

(e) what are the reasons therefor and who are the persons responsible for this loss to Air India ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. These machines were imported in 1978 from U.S.A. at a cost of US \$ 353,052. The

total cost of the machines was Rs. 45,18,381/- including customs duty and octroi.

(c) No, Sir. These machines are in use.

(d) There is no proposal to sell these machines at present.

(e) Does not arise.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON PAKISTANI PRISONERS-OF-WAR

***313. SHRI DIGAMBER SINGH :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the Government of India on the Pakistani prisoners-of-war who were detained in the Indian Camps after the 1971 Bangladesh War by way of feeding, clothing, pocket money and other incidentals till they were repatriated to Pakistan in pursuance of the Simla Agreement in 1972;

(b) whether following the well-established international norms, Government had preferred any claim for full or part payment of this expenditure from the Pakistan Government;

(c) if so, for what amount, when and what was the reaction of Pakistan Government thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether there was any stipulation in this behalf in the Simla Agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) The total expenditure incurred by the Government of India on the Pakistani prisoners-of-war works out to Rs. 38,15,06,000/-.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The matter of reimbursement of the expenditure had been taken up with the Pakistan Government on a number of occasions from September 1973 but there has been no favourable response.

(d) The Simla Agreement stipulated that "the representatives of the two sides will meet to discuss further the modalities and arrangements for the establishment of durable peace and normalization of rela-