

(a) the progress in acquisition of a helicopter fleet for Oil and Natural Gas Commission ;

(b) what was the need for reopening negotiations with the prospective suppliers ; and

(c) how many of the prospective suppliers have offered concessional credit arrangements for the deal ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) Final round of negotiations for the acquisition of helicopters for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is presently under way. Since the negotiations are still continuing the question of their reopening does not arise.

Government of NK has offered to cover the cost of procurement of Westland WG-30 helicopters for the ONGC under a grant. Government of France has also offered concessional credit arrangement for Aerospatiable helicopters.

Security Lapses at Srinagar Aripport

*469. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether CBI investigations have disclosed that approximately, 1,000 persons holding entry passes, had unrestricted access to Srinagar airport during the recent airbus hijacking incident ;

(b) by whom such passes were issued and to whom ; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against those responsible for such serious security lapse ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHUR-SHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c)

The C.B.I. is conducting an investigation into the hijacking incident including the issue of security passes. Action to be taken against those responsible for security lapse (s) would be decided on the results of the investigation.

Expansion of Peelamedu Airport, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

*470. SHRI ERA MOHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether land has been acquired for the expansion of Peelamedu Airport, Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu and the amount allocated for completing the expansion ; and

(b) the time by which this expansion work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHUR-SHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The land for extension of the existing runway has been acquired. A provision of Rs. 15.00 lakhs has been made in the Annual Plan 1984-85 for the development of the airport. The work is likely to be completed in the Seventh Plan period.

Appointment of Chairman of State Bank of India

*471. SHRI T.S. NEGI :

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to number of disclosures in the 'Onlooker' dated 8-22 June, 1984 concerning the State Bank of India ;

(b) whether Government will consider its decision on appointment of