

(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

Chairman of State Bank of India in the light of these disclosures ; and

(c) whether Government also propose to create a cell in the Union Public Service Commission for all top appointments in the public sector ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Appointment of Chairman of State Bank of India is made by Central Government in consultation with Reserve Bank of India. The appointment will be made after taking into account all relevant factors.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Delay in Implementation of Modernisation Programme of NTC Mills

*472. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :
SHRI D.M. PUTTE
GOWDA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the engineering contracting agencies or civil contractors engaged by the National Textile Corporation Limited and its subsidiaries for carrying out jobs, under the Approved Modernisation Programme, have been by and large failing to execute contracts for dearth of regular payments of their bills as a result of which the entire plan for modernisation is getting delayed ;

(b) whether most of contracts were awarded without a provision for escalation of prices which is also resulting into delay in execution of contracts ; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and action being taken to provide the existing contractors cost escalation

including statutory increase in prices of steel and other steel materials for quickening the implementation of modernisation programme of various mills particularly those located in Eastern Region, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir. By and large, the implementation of the approved modernisation programme for the mills under N.T.C. is being carried out in a phased manner, without delays.

(b) and (c) The need for a provision for price escalation in the civil contracts awarded by NTC is not felt, as these are generally time-bound, with the responsibility for procuring and providing the two vital construction materials, viz., cement and steel, resting with the NTC subsidiaries. Any increase, statutory or otherwise, in the costs of construction materials, is therefore, borne by the NTC.

As the implementation of sanctioned modernisation programme for the mills of NTC located in all the regions of the country is being carried out without delays, the question of making special price escalation provision in civil contracts for mills in the Eastern region, Uttar Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh, does not arise.

Workers Co-operative Scheme for Management of Mills

*473. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the textile units in the country which are already entrusted to 'workers cooperatives' for management and which are expected to be handed over to the workers for running ;

(b) whether Government are considering to extend the concept of