

MR. SPEAKER: Very positive.

DR. KARAN SINGH: ...that by the middle of 1982 the runway would be extended. Would he also confirm that by the time sufficient Boeing 737 aircraft or jet aircraft or whatever type would have been acquired so that we don't then get the reply that the airfield is ready but the plane is not coming?

MR. SPEAKER: You also want assurance on that?

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK: He does not expect us to get the airfield ready without the planes.

MR. SPEAKER: He has been encouraged by your earlier reply. Next question.

#### **Self-certification Scheme for Export of Fish and Fish Products**

\*164. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to introduce self-certification scheme for the export of fish and fish products;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received a representation from All India Export Inspection Agency Employees' Association against the introduction of this scheme; and

(d) if so, what are their points and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Employees' Association is of the view that the introduction of self-certification scheme for fish and fish products will enable unscrupulous

processors to export sub-standard Marine Products which will tarnish the image of our country and self-certification will also lead to large scale retrenchment of the employees of the Export Inspection Agencies working in fish and fish products inspection scheme.

The apprehensions expressed by the Association are unfounded.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: The value of marine export products work out to Rs. 236 crores. This is as per the previous year's figure. Now, my anxiety is regarding self-certification because it is in vogue in certain industries. I would like to ask the hon. Minister (a) what motivated the Government to introduce self-certification for the marine products? (b) How many exporters are there who are well equipped and have sophisticated laboratories? (c) Is the hon. Minister aware that hundreds of small exporters are going to be squeezed out of the trade to the benefit of the big monopolies? (d) Will not the scheme lead to idling of the Export Inspection Agency and consequential retrenchment?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, in reply to (a) of the hon. Member, I have already indicated that we have not yet introduced self-certification scheme. Therefore, the question does not arise. In regard to other questions, perhaps the hon. Member is confused between the scheme of self-certification and the scheme of in-process quality control and in fact self certification scheme has not been introduced for any other item, not to speak of fish and other fish products. So far as in-process quality control for fish and fish products is concerned only 30 out of 288 units have asked for the introduction of the scheme. Various aspects of the scheme are being looked into. So far as the retrenchment is concerned, I have already replied in answer to my main question that there is no possibility of any retrenchment.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Sir, the United States of America is one of the biggest importers of Indian shrimps, what we call prawns. Recently there was a report that American importers have expressed their apprehensions of the fact that pre-export inspection which is done here before the goods are exported is not satisfactory and Indian shrimps, according to them, have been found to contain some chemicals which are harmful and therefore they have decided that they will do their own inspection again and they will reject the shrimps which they consider unfit for consumption in the country. This will have a direct bearing on the question of quality control and inspection. May I know what is the position now in the American markets which takes several crores of rupees worth our shrimps from our country?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** In fact the American inspection and their quality control are rather stiff and a large number of items were in fact inspected and held up. In fact, they have black-listed Indian fish products along with the fish products supplied by certain other countries. That is the reason why we have to see that more emphasis is laid on the quality of the products which are being exported from India. Automatic Detention by the American authorities for inspection has been introduced recently and we are trying to maintain the quality as per their specifications.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** What happened to the supplies which were held by them?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** They were not consumed by them.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Were they rejected?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** Yes, rejected.

**SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO:** The hon. Minister is aware that in spite of

the spectacular progress our country, has made in exporting our frozen fish products, unfortunately 90 per cent of that product goes to only two countries, that is, America and Japan. So what steps the Government is taking to diversify our products for export not only to these two countries but to different countries?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** It is true that bulk of our exports so far as these items are concerned are mainly to the United States of America and Japan and our share in other countries is limited and it is a constant exercise made by the Export Promotion Council to enlarge the areas of operation.

**SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL:** The hon. Minister has said that there is the in-process quality control as far as exports are concerned. As I understand this problem, it is only America which is insisting on this stringent import quality control, and Japan is not insisting. Will the hon. Minister tell us whether we would make every effort to convince American as also the Japan Government to buy these products from us and not from Mexico and other countries? We should also try to convince America and Japan to buy these products from us not as a monopoly item, but as an export item of our country at the international market level.

Secondly, the exporters of Kerala are facing a very serious problem because of this very stringent import control policy of the American Government. On the other hand, Japan Government is buying these products from us at cheaper rates and then re-exporting the same to America. Has the Government considered this problem faced by the exporters in Kerala in particular and India in general?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** So far as quality is concerned, it is for the customer to decide what type of quality they would like to have. So far as fish and fish products are concerned, it is not merely because

Americans are insisting or the other importing countries are insisting, we ourselves are eager to see that the goods which are exported are of quality and according to the standards.

As regards to point whether Japan is importing from us and then exporting to the United States of America, I have no such information.

**SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL:** A highly paid officer of the Fisheries Development Corporation, West Bengal after returning from China advised the Corporation to start production of prawn pickles. I would like to know whether these pickles are being sold both in the internal market and outside.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** I have no such information.

#### Private Air Taxi Service

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\*165. **SHRI D. P. JADEJA:**

**SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:**

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to introduce private air taxi service in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the companies as well as State Governments who applied for permission;

(c) the action taken by Government on their applications;

(d) when the final decision on the proposal is likely to be announced; and

(e) on which routes the private Air Taxi Service is proposed to be run by private operators?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):** (a) to (e). The proposal to operate Air Taxi Services received from various private parties are under consideration of the Government. Air

Taxis are basically charter operations, and private parties can operate them in accordance with the provisions contained in the Air Corporations Act, 1953 and Aircraft Rules, 1937. The following private parties have applied for Air Taxi Services in the country:

1. Falcon Air, New Delhi
2. Khemka Aviation Private Ltd., New Delhi.
3. East India Hotels, New Delhi.
4. Saraya Aviation, New Delhi.
5. Shri Ramesh Kothari, Bombay.

No proposal for operating Air Taxi has been received from any of the State Governments.

As far as routes to be operated by private parties are concerned, this will be decided after all relevant factors including the type of aircraft are considered.

**SHRI D. P. JADEJA:** During the Fifth Lok Sabha I had asked a similar question and the answer was also almost the same as I have received this time. I would like to know from the Government as to how long they would take for a final decision and whether the Government is considering to have a study team to go into this matter before the final decision is taken.

**SHRI J. B. PATNAIK:** The difference between that time and this time is that we are now going to hasten a decision in this regard. A committee had been appointed; it has submitted its report which is now under the consideration of the Government and a decision will be taken very shortly in this regard.

**SHRI D. P. JADEJA:** The hon Minister has mentioned in his reply that chartered flights can be operated in accordance with the provisions of the Act. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he has received any proposal from certain companies to operate charter flights from abroad into India where Air India does not operate. If