

Amritsar Trivandrum airport is being developed for such flights on regular basis. The question of development of Amritsar airport for starting international flights with Boeing 747 is receiving Government's active consideration.

Vacant posts of Liaison Officers of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras of Weights and Measures

669. SHRI C. CHINNASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Liaison officers of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras of Directorate of Weights and Measures are lying vacant for a couple of years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bombay Office of Weights and Measures is manned by an LDC for over two years; and

(c) if so, when the posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) to (c). The posts of Liaison Officers at Calcutta and Madras are not vacant. The post of Liaison Officer at Bombay fell vacant on 1st May 1979 consequent upon the retirement of its previous incumbent on superannuation. Arrangement had been made to look after the Liaison Office there by posting a Senior Investigator who continued there till October, 1979. The Assistant Secretary, Forward Markets Commission, Bombay has been authorised to perform the administrative functions of the Bombay Liaison Office. Steps for election of a suitable candidate for the post of Liaison Officer at Bombay are underway.

Attempt to Hijack Bombay-bound I.A. Airbus

670. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the security staff at Delhi Airport thwart-

ed an attempt by a University student. Rakesh Singhal to hijack a Bombay-bound Indian Airlines airbus on 9th April, 1980; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). On April 8, 1980, during the security check at Delhi Airport of the passengers-travelling from Delhi to Bombay, one Shri Rakesh Singhal, aged about 20 years, and resident of Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh), was found carrying a country made revolver with three live cartridges and one fired cartridge concealed in a knee cap at the back of his knee. Shri Singhal was arrested, and a case under FIR No. 40 dated 9th April 1980 under Section 25/27/54/59 Arms Act and 393/365/511 IPC was registered at Delhi Airport Police Station. The investigations revealed that he wanted to hijack the plane only out of frustration in his personal life, and drew inspiration from reports of hijacking in newspapers. He is presently on bail.

Revision of the Stainless Steel Import Policy

671. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to revise the stainless steel import policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.