

news item which appeared in "The HINDU" dated the 9th July, 1973, captioned 'RBI study to Eliminate Frauds on Banks'. If so, Government have seen this news item.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India is conducting studies of the systems and the procedures obtaining in banks with the immediate objective of identifying areas of deficiencies and suggesting, wherever necessary, the introduction of revised systems and procedures and improvement in the existing ones. Reserve Bank of India may also make suggestions to assist the banks in finding ways of rectifying the various deficiencies revealed by the study. The Reserve Bank has reported that in the light of the inspections regarding systems and procedures obtaining in two banks and the information collected by it from several other banks, it has already advised the commercial banks on certain precautions to be taken in regard to balancing of transactions relating to clearing of cheques, drafts etc. as well as reconciliation of inter-branch accounts.

(c) In terms of the instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India all banks are required to report about all frauds perpetrated in their offices as soon as such frauds come to their notice. On going through the modus operandi of the frauds and the laxities in observing the usual internal controls which facilitate the perpetration of most of the frauds, the banks concerned are advised by the Reserve Bank of India about the safeguards and precautions to be taken to avoid the recurrence of such frauds. The Reserve Bank of India has also been issuing, from time to time, circulars to banks not only with a view to cautioning them but also to enabling them to plug possible loopholes, if any, in the respective systems and procedures.

# **Report of British Leather Expert on Leather Exports from India**

1848. SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN  
SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether a British leather expert has reported in his recent visit to India that within a few years Indian leather exports could increase to Rs 350 crore from the present level of Rs 150 crore, and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the suggestions made by him?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A C GEORGE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Mr Higham, Technical Editor "The Leather", London, has made an observation to this effect in an article published by him after a visit to India and a general survey of Indian leather industry. He was not required to make any suggestion on the subject to the Government of India.

# **Decision to re-surface the runway of Palam Airport**

1849 SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN  
SHRI V. MAYAVAN

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

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to re-surface the runway of Palam Airport.

(b) if so, the total expenditure involved, and

(c) when the work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) to (c). The work of re-surfacing of the shorter runway, 09/27, at Delhi airport involving an expenditure of Rs. 25 lakhs has already started. The longer runway 18/28 does not require resurfacing.