

(vii) URGENT NEED TO allot MORE LAND BY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY OF INDIA TO CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

SHRI ERA ANBARASU (CHENGALPATTU) : Permission of the Hon'able Speaker is sought to make a statement before the House under Rule 377 on a matter of grave importance arising out of inaction by M/s. International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) to allot more land to Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) to augment their storage capacity of their Import Air Cargo Warehouse at Delhi Airport. Attention of the House was already drawn to the news item "Ministries Battle over air cargo handling" which appeared in the Indian Express on 4-11-1981 and the Hon'ble Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation had replied in the House during the last session that the matter was being re-examined in the light of the facts mentioned in the above news report. However, it is disheartening and depressing to note that nothing worthwhile has been done so far and number of packages costing crores of rupees are still lying outside. M/s. IAAI have been deliberately standing in the way of CWC getting more land and frivolous arguments such as the establishment of a new company for the handling of air cargo at all the Airports, failure to

carry out auction of sixty days old cargo etc., are being advanced to stall the allotment of land. It is a welcome feature that a new company is being floated for the handling of air cargo, where even CWC could be made a shareholder. Auctioning of old cargo is a lengthy and time-consuming process and is not in the hands of CWC. Even at other airports like Bombay and Madras, the auctioning procedures were initiated after lapse of a number of years. Auctioning has to be done by the Customs Department and CWC has no say in this except to extend the facilities for the above which have been extending to the Customs Department.

The fact remains that costly and delicate goods imported at huge costs are lying in the open at the mercy of vagaries of weather. The immediate need of the hour is to allot additional land to CWC without standing on formalities and indulging in hair-splitting arguments. The IAAI has suggested to CWC to cover the open space around the road in the Complex by temporary sheds. It will make the movement of goods further difficult and cannot even solve a fraction of the aize of the problem. It is understood that the import figures at Delhi Airport show a growth rate of 45% and if it is so, immediate action may be taken to allot one more of hectare of land to CWC.