

lounge and cafeteria by November/December, 1981.

Next 4 guest room floors (122 rooms) and restaurant by January, 1982.

Balance guest room floors with conventional furniture by March, 1982.

My friend will see that both the hotels will be fully commissioned before the game—ASLAD 1982.

Huge Scale Import of drugs by USSR

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*504-A. SHRI R. L. BHATIA:

SHRI B. V. DESAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a USSR Pharmaceutical Team visited India last month for studying the possibility of importing drugs from India on a large-scale;

(b) if so, the outcome of discussions held by them with the pharmaceutical manufacturers in the private sector and the I.D.P.L.;

(c) whether the deal will be on Government-to-Government basis or the U.S.S.R. will purchase direct from the pharmaceutical manufacturers; and

(d) the names of some of the important drugs for which the USSR has expressed a desire to import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d). A three-member team of the Ministry of Health from U.S.S.R. visited India during August, 1981. Their visit to India was primarily to

acquaint themselves with the functioning of pharmaceutical units in India. During discussions held at the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, no mention was made regarding purchases. Since they were members of the Ministry of Health connected with registration of drugs, their discussions were mainly about registration formalities.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: From the statement one cannot make out whether the high powered team of three Members of Ministry of Health, U.S.S.R. came to India just for visiting the health of our public undertaking, I.D.P.L., etc. Was this team invited by the Government of India or this team came on their own? If they came on their own, what interest had they shown in our public undertakings concerned?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: No doubt the personnel of this team belonged to the Ministry of Health of USSR. But they were not invited by us. We had no information about the arrival of this team from the U.S.S.R. or from our own Mission in Moscow. It appeared that the team came here in order to find out and see for themselves the standard of manufacturing of pharmaceutical products in this country and quality control. This was their purpose. Therefore, they visited a number of pharmaceutical manufacturing units at places—Ahmedabad, Baroda, Delhi, IDPL and apparently they went back quite satisfied.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: This seems to be a very strange affair. Neither the Government of India invited them nor they showed to the Government of India any interest. They came on a visit all the way. I think there is something which probably the Minister is not trying to tell us. Is it a fact that discussion took place with regard to expansion of our IDPL and other pharmaceutical concerns with the help of USSR? If so, he may kindly give us information.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I can just supplement. There is nothing wrong in this type of delegation's visit. Sometimes they come. They explore the possibilities and when they want..

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Without information?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes, sometimes they come. Take the case of tobacco. A large number of them come and they discuss with the private traders. If it is a canalised item, if they want to have it, they come and discuss with us. If they have to take from the private trader, they come and make direct contact. Therefore, there is nothing wrong in it.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: In that case they should tell us that they met the private traders and they wanted purchases of Indian medicines from the firms.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Our Export Promotion Council (Economic Cell) was also told by one private drug manufacturer Shri Babu Bhai Patil that they had some meeting. It is just an exploratory visit. They had some preliminary discussion. If they find they are actually interested and they are taking a number of drugs. But they want to expand the the area.

SHRI B. V. DESAI: In view of the fact that USSR is very much interested in purchase of drugs from India and, whereas previously they were having contacts and purchasing these drugs only from the multi-nationals from our country and now they have shown interest in our public sector undertakings as well as in private drug manufacturers, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India will explore this possibility and improve the position of exports vis-a-vis USSR which is now about Rs. 40 crores. Of course, as it is also, if I am correct, Rs. 40 crores is not a small amount as compared to

Rs. 76 crores which is the total export. Will both the figures get improved by the consistent effort of the Government of India to export drugs to USSR?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: It has been already admitted by the hon. Member himself that there has been an increase in the export of drugs to USSR. The practice is that the representatives of two sides meet and decide the requirement of the country for the calendar year and, for the year 1980-81, as already stated, Rs. 40 crores target has been fixed and, out of this, Rs. 17.61 crores has already been achieved upto June, 1981.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मुझे मंत्री महादय का उत्तर सुन कर थोड़ा ताज्जुब हुआ है। हमारे यहां प्राइवेट मैनफक्चरर है लेकिन रूस में नहीं है। वहां से जो प्रतिनिधिमंडल आता है वह सस्कारी होता है। हमारे और सोवियत संघ के बहुत अच्छे सम्बन्ध हैं। क्या मैं यह मान कर चलू कि उन्होंने माम्कां में हमारी एम्बेसी को भी सबर नहीं दी कि उनका एक प्रतिनिधि मंडल भारत जा रहा है? क्या हवाई अड्डे पर उसका लें के लिए कोई नहीं था? यह तो कूटनीतिक शिष्टाचार का भी पालन नहीं किया जा रहा है। कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं है कि मंत्री महादय किसी बड़ी बात पर पर्दा डालने के लिए ऐसा कह रहे हैं।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: What is the fact, I can just inform. I cannot create fact. The refact of the matter is that our Embassy did not send any information to us, nor did they contact us, nor did the Health Ministry indicate us any information about it. Therefore, I just share the information with the hon. Members.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: But you approve what has happened? Have you told the Russian friends that they should come after informing us so that they can be looked after and properly received?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That is a different issue. Sometimes,

delegations come. Take the case of tobacco.

SHRI ATAL BIHARĪ VAJPAYEE:
Again tobacco.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:
This is the practice. A large number of delegations come. They go to the centres and they establish contacts with the producers and they leave. It is not that the entire trade between USSR and Government of India is through public sector agencies. Certain trade is through public sector agencies and certain trade is through private sector agencies. Therefore, how we come into the picture I am unable to understand.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: May I know whether there is a shortage of drugs in India presently and whether the export of drugs to USSR will not add to the difficulties and aggravate the position of local drug suppliers? With the drug industry presently in the doldrums, how does the Government propose to meet and honour the extra drug commitments required for export purposes to USSR?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN:
It is obvious from the fact that there has been a steady increase in the export of drugs from this country. Therefore, there is no shortage of these drugs. May be, at some time or other, there might be some shortage of some particular special drug. That is another thing. But as far as the total requirement of drugs is concerned, there is no difficulty and it will be possible for us to meet the total requirement of USSR and other countries where we are also exporting drugs.

IA Avro Plane Crashlanded at Mangalore

*507. **SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines Avro plane crashlanded at Bajpe airport, Mangalore on 19th August, 1980; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the crash landing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANRAKAR): (a) Indian Air lines HS-748 (AVRO) aircraft VT-DXF, while operating flight IC-557 (Bangalore-Mangalore) overshot the runway while landing at Mangalore at 1502 hours on 19th August, 1981.

(b) The accident is under investigation by an Inspector of Accident appointed by the Director General of Civil Aviation under Rule 71 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
It was a providential escape not only for all the passengers but also for the Finance Minister of Karnataka when the accident took place. The awful condition of the Mangalore runway has been brought to the notice of the Authorities. The Mangalore Airport runway is not at all sufficient for the operation of the Avro during the monsoon. Particularly Boeing cannot be operated during the monsoon season. It has been stated on the floor of the House that a new runway would be constructed very soon.

May I know from the Hon. Minister when the new construction will be commenced? Any delay in the execution of the construction will be disastrous. What would be the amount that would be spent for the construction of the new runway?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): It is true that there is certain difficulty in the operation of aircraft so far as Mangalore is concerned. During the rainy season, the 737-Boeing was not operated. It is only the Avro aircraft that operates there at Mangalore airport and in that also a lot of care and caution is taken. The runway is, no doubt, old and, therefore, it is under the consideration