

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 21st March, 1979 | the
30th Phalguna, 1900 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the
clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*401. [The questioners (Shrimati
Pratima Bose and Shri T. Basheer),
were absent. For answer, vide cols.
46-47 infra.]

*402. [The questioner (Shri Syed
Ahmad Hashmi) was absent. For ans-
wer, vide col. 48 infra.]

*403. [The questioner (Shri N. P.
Chengalraya Naidu) was absent. For
answer, vide cols. 48-49 infra]

*404. [The questioner (Shri Laksh-
mana Mahapatro) was absent. For
answer, vide vols. 49-50 infra.]

*405. [The questioners (Shri Kalp
Nath Rai, Dr. Lokesh Chandra and
Shri Roshan Lal) were absent. For
answer, vide col. 50 infra.]

*406. [The questioners (Shri Ladli
Mohan Nigam and Shri Prakash Meh-
rotra) were absent. For answer, vide
cols. 50-51 infra.]

**Contracts with Hindustan Aircraft for
manufacture of aeroplanes for
agricultural use**

*407. DR. (SHRIMATI) SATHIA-
VANI MUTHU:
SHRI V. VENKA:
SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN: ‡

Will the Minister of AGRICUL-
TURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that orders
have been placed by Government
with the Hindustan Aircrafts Limited
for the manufacture of aeroplanes for
agricultural operations;

‡The question was actually asked
on the floor of the House by Shri
E. R. Krishnan.

(b) if so, what is the number of
aircrafts ordered for and what is the
number of aircrafts supplied;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a
number of planes manufactured in the
Hindustan Aircrafts Limited have not
been taken delivery of; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons
therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICUL-
TURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI
SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to
(d) A statement is laid on the Table
of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An order for 100 fixed wing
aircrafts was placed, out of which 34
aircrafts were to be supplied in the
initial phase for use by the Directo-
rate of Agricultural Aviation and
for sales to State Governments and
private operators. The Directorate of
Agricultural Aviation have purchas-
ed 26 aircrafts so far.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main reasons are:

(i) inadequate work arising for
fixed wing aircrafts and consequent
under-utilisation of the existing
fleet; and

(ii) absence of demand from the
State Governments, Public and
Private Sector Undertakings for
Basant aircraft.

SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN: (*Spoke in
Tamil*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can anybody
translate it? Mr. Krishnan, you may
say it roughly in English. You are
allowed to say in Tamil. But now you
give it roughly in English.

SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN: (*Spoke in
Tamil*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will tell you. We have decided to make some arrangement here, just like the decision taken in the Lok Sabha also. You speak in broken English. It does not matter. I request you to do it; we can make arrangements next time.

SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN: (*Spoke in Tamil*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who will translate it?

SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN: Sir, the Lok Sabha has accepted it yesterday and in the House they announced.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Krishnan, I came to know from the Leader of the House. We are also going to do the same thing as is being done in the Lok Sabha. Kindly put the question in English in your own way. We will carry on.

SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN: (*Spoke in Tamil*).

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I could follow that, but he cannot.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, I can reply to this. (*Spoke in Punjabi*).

AN HON. MEMBER: Now, I hope that you have followed it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Krishnan, you put it in English.

SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN: Sir, the order was placed for the aircraft on the Hindustan Aircraft Limited. What is the reason for not taking delivery?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why delivery was not taken?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, earlier an order for 100 fixed-wing aircraft was placed. Then delivery was taken of 26 aircraft so far. And now there is a lesser demand for

fixed-wing aircraft from the State Governments. They want more helicopters than fixed-wing aircraft. That is why we had intimated the Hindustan Aircrafts Limited that we would not be able to purchase more aircraft, and we can purchase up to 34 and not more than that number.

SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN: What is the actual extent of loss?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: In fact, there is no loss in this. BHAL have informed us that they have spent some money on certain things, and that we should pay them that. So, we are taking up this matter with them and this will be mutually settled.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, when this order was placed, the Government had ascertained what the demand was from the States for these aircrafts. Or was it done in a haphazard way so that delivery is not taking place now? Who is responsible for this loss?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: As I said earlier, there has been no loss as such because it is not that one hundred planes have been manufactured already and we are not taking delivery. That is not the thing. They have yet to produce those many planes. Now the demand has come down. That is the reason why we are not taking any more planes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

*408. [*The questioners (Shri Ramnand Yadav, Shri Shyam Lal Yadav and Shri Mahendra Mohan Mishra) were absent. or answer, vide cols. 51-52 infra.*]

*409. [*The questioner (Shri Krishnarao Narayan Dhulap) was absent. or answer, vide Cols. 52-53 infra.*]