

Air Service to Daltonganj to attract tourists

*324. SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the National Park and Project Tiger in Daltonganj district of Bihar attracts a large number of tourists;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a regular airstrip in the district which could be utilised for regular Indian Airlines flights; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to run some flights to Daltonganj in the near future for the convenience of the tourists ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK) : (a) Government are aware that the National Park in Daltonganj district in Bihar attracts tourists. The number of tourists is, however, not large at present. Tourists will be encouraged to visit the Tiger Reserve as soon as the tiger population becomes larger.

(b) No, Sir. There are two small fair-weather airstrips 2550 ft. X 450 ft. (East West) and 1500 ft. X 300 ft. (North-South) at Daltonganj controlled by the Government of Bihar. Daltonganj is suitable only for operation with smaller aircraft and is inadequate for operation with the type of aircraft in the fleet of India Airlines.

(c) Indian Airlines have at present no plans to operate air services to Daltonganj,

Loan by the Nationalised Banks against Foodgrains security

*325. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of credit made available to farmers and traders by the nationalised

banks other than the public food procurement agencies against security of foodgrains till the end of April, 1977; and

(b) whether any part of the credit so given is reported to have been used for crop-speculation ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Public sector banks have advanced Rs. 25.5 crores to traders and others excluding Mills and industrial users against the security of food-grains as at the end of April, 1977.

(b) No complaints regarding speculative holding of foodgrain stocks with the help of Bank Credit have been received.

Unsatisfactory service of air buses

*326. SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA:

SHRI HARISINH BHAGU-
BAVA MAHIDA :

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM
KHAN :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the recently acquired air buses are not giving satisfactory service and that two cases of engine failure have already been reported; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what action Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK) : (a) and (b) Since their introduction in the Indian Airlines, Airbus A-300 B2 aircraft have done more than 7,600 hrs. of engine operation up to date. During this period, there has been only one engine failure while the aircraft was in operation. A second engine was, however, replaced due to a defect found during normal maintenance inspection and was not involved in any failure during operation.