

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 PURUSHOTAM 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. × 450 ft. (East West) and 1500 ft. × 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 food-grains 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 BHAGUBAVA 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 PURUSHOTAM 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.

Further, according to information received from the manufacturers of the engine CF6-50C, there have been only three stage 11 blade failures of the type experienced by Indian Airlines in more than 3,173,000 hrs. of airline service world over. They have also certified that the maintenance by Indian Airlines is very conservative and more than adequate.

In view of the above facts it cannot be said that the Indian Airlines Airbus are not giving satisfactory service.

Policy for purchase of raw cotton

*327. SHRI DEORAO PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for the purchase of raw cotton direct from the growers;

(b) whether Government have also decided to purchase raw cotton in the open market through the Cotton Corporation of India for the year 1977-78; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) Minimum support prices of raw cotton are assured by the Government to cotton growers and the Cotton Corporation of India is asked to make support to purchase, whenever necessary.

(b) and (c) Cotton Corporation of India will continue to make purchases of raw cotton in the open market during 1977-78 cotton season. The details are being worked out.

Selection grades in Class III and IV Cadres

*328. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state;

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(a) whether Government had agreed, in principle, to introduce selection grades in Class III and IV cadres in order to remove stagnation in these cadres;

(b) What are the names of the Ministries/Departments in which and the dates from which selection grades have been introduced; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in introducing these selection grades in the remaining Ministries/Departments ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission, orders have been issued on the 10th January, 1977 for the introduction of Selection Grades in Class III & Class IV cadres (now called Group 'C' and Group 'D' cadres) with effect from 1-8-1976 subject to the fulfilment of certain prescribed criteria.

(b) The Department of Personnel and A.R. had already issued orders on 6-1-1977 for the introduction of Selection Grades for Stenographers in the ordinary grade of Rs. 330-560 serving in all Subordinate Offices under the Government of India with effect from 1-11-73. The number of Selection Grade posts for this cadre will be 10 per cent of the Ordinary Grade till 31-7-1976; thereafter it will be determined in accordance with the criteria laid down in the orders of the Ministry of Finance dated 10-1-1977. That Department have also issued orders on 6-4-77 introducing Selection Grade for Lower Division Clerks of the Central Secretariat Clerical Service with effect from 14-3-1977. The Ministry of Railways have with effect from 1-8-76 introduced Selection Grade for Safaiwalas, Khalasis, Peons, Hospital Attendants and Cleaners in non-technical services and for Gangman, Gateman and Trollymen, Proposals from the following Ministries/Departments in regard to pay scales for the