

REPLACEMENT OF OLD AIRCRAFT

295. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken by the Indian Airlines to replace some of the old aircraft during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :

(a) and (b) No Sir. Indian Airlines are making a detailed study of their future aircraft requirements, keeping in view the necessity to replace old aircraft and the growth of capacity requirements. Ten HS 748 aircraft are already on order.

FIVE-DAY WEEKS FOR BANKS

296. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Banking Commission has recommended five-day weeks for banks; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) Subject to enhancing suitably the working hours on other week days, the Banking Commission has recommended that to begin with and on an experimental basis, administrative offices of banks may remain fully closed on Saturdays. The Commission has also added that the question of introducing similar changes in bank offices dealing with the public may be considered later.

(b) The recommendations of the Banking Commission are being examined.

ESCAPE BY PAKISTANI POWS

297. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA :

2/LT K. P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some Pakistani Prisoners of War had escaped, if so, the number thereof and the places from where they had escaped;

(b) the number out of them who have not been arrested so far; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action against the persons responsible for their escape; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir, Fourteen. Excepting two, who escaped from POW Camps, other had escaped while in transit.

(b) Four.

(c) Suitable action will be taken after investigations are complete.

12 NOON

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA) in the Chair]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED POWER SHORTAGE IN PUNJAB AND OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the report of power shortage in Punjab and other parts of the country and the steps taken to meet the situation.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : Sir, the power supply position in the country is very tight. There is little or no reserve capacity, with the result that even temporary failures of machines or insufficient rainfall and consequential reduction in storage results in power shortages. There are very few surplus pockets in the country and, even there, the surplus is marginal. The surplus States are Madhya Pradesh (70 MW), Orissa (120 MW), Mysore (100 MW) and Kerala (110 MW) and most of the surplus power is being utilised.

Thus surplus in Madhya Pradesh is used in the neighbouring States of Maharashtra U. P. and in Bhakra area within the limits of transmission capability. The surplus in Orissa will be utilised more fully on completion of additional transmission links between Orissa and Bihar. The surplus power in Mysore is utilised in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. The surplus power in Kerala is practically wholly used in Tamil Nadu.