

AIR LINKING OF BHOPAL

*16. SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhopal is not linked by air; and

(b) if so, what is the reason therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN) : (a) and (b) As the Corporation were incurring heavy losses on the Delhi|Gwalior|Bhopal|Indore|Bombay service, they discontinued the operation of this service with effect from 1st April, 1963.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: May I know what are the principal cities which are affected by the delinking of this service?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: The cities that were connected were Gwalior, Bhopal, Indore and Bombay.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: May I know whether these cities are not important in the view of the Government so that they are delinked from the air services only on the consideration that they are net profitable?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: The cities are of very great importance, but the Corporation runs on a commercial basis. They have got to see that at least the expenditure incurred on running the service is recovered from the traffic.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: The hon. Minister has stated that the air-services on this line, that is Delhi | Gwalior |Bhopal|Indore|Bombay, are not profitable commercially. If so, would the hon. Minister consider the linking of Bhopal by air with Delhi, Nagpur, Hyderabad and Madras, because that would be profitable in my opinion.

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: As far as traffic from Bhopal to Delhi is concerned, it was found—for example, I will give you some figures: In April to December 1962 the passenger traffic was very low. The average per flight was only 2-8. In some months, for example in November, there were only 5 passengers a month. You cannot run a service on such a small traffic.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: My question is different. I have asked him whether it would be advisable to connect Bhopal by air with Delhi on this route—Delhi|Bhopal|Nagpur|Hyderabad|Madras.

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: That is not possible.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Is it a fact that the Government of Madhya Pradesh was making an annual financial subsidy for the maintenance of the service and that it is unwilling to continue the financial payment to the Indian Airlines Corporation? The Government of Madhya Pradesh was making some sort of payment for the maintenance of this service, and it appears that the Indian Airlines wanted them to raise this amount, and that is why this service has been discontinued.

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: The Madhya Pradesh Government was not paying any subsidy for this service. It was an experiment made at the direction from the Central Government, and for three years it has been running at a loss of about Rs. 9 lakhs per year. Now the Indian Airlines Corporation have written to the Madhya Pradesh Government that if they helped, they might introduce the service again.

STRAY CATTLE

♦17. DR. GOPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of stray cattle in the country; and

(b) whether approaches have been made by any country for their purchase?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a; and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) No survey has been made about the number of stray cattle in the country. It is also difficult to make an assessment as the population of stray cattle, varies widely depending upon season of calvings, number of dry animals, scarcity of fodder etc. The number of such cattle in Punjab and Delhi was, however, tentatively estimated at 1,10,000 and 8,000 respectively in 1959-60.

(b) No requests have been received from any foreign country for export of stray cattle from India. Some countries, however, make requests from time to time for export of cattle of recognised breeds in small number for breeding or draught purposes only.

DR. GOPAL SINGH: May I know what arrangements the Government are making to assess and reduce the menace of stray cattle in view of the great havoc that is being wrought by them?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The Government is aware of the great damage that the stray cattle cause. Some steps have been taken. We have got what is called the Wild Cattle Catching Scheme under which stray cattle in Punjab and Delhi are caught and then are put in Gosadon or sent to other areas for productive purposes. The census indicates that in Punjab the stray cattle will come to 1,10,000, and in Delhi it will be 8,000.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know if there is any cattle section in the Ministry?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I do not know what the hon. Member means by his question, but I have already said that there is a Cell which handles this Wild Cattle Catching Scheme.

DR. GOPAL SINGH: May I know if it is a fact that the price offered for recognised breeds has been from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 40,000 and, if so, what prevents the Government from allowing export of these breeds to foreign countries to earn foreign exchange?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The question refers to stray cattle. This supplementary question refers to the question of export of cattle. With a view to conserving good breeds of cattle in the country in order to develop our own livestock, export of seven specified breeds has been banned. But special requests from friendly foreign countries are always taken into consideration and considered on merit.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know where this menace of stray cattle is the greatest? Which is the State where the menace is the greatest? I would also like to know if any assessment of the loss suffered on account of this stray cattle menace on a State-wise basis or all-India scale has been made by the Ministry.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In fact, no exact estimates are available. We have asked the various State Governments whether they would give us an idea of the number of stray cattle in each State. Only Punjab and Delhi have responded. The State of Punjab and the Union Territory of Delhi have responded, and I have given to the House the figures given by them. Some estimates have been made of some other States also. For example, the stray cattle estimate in Uttar Pradesh is round about 1,50,000; Madhya Pradesh 1,10,000; Rajasthan 40,000 and Bihar 50,000.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: The question was about the export of stray cattle, their sale and

purchase. Did the hon. Minister, when replying about the special breeds being allowed to be exported, refer to the export of stray cattle because that would be against Government's policy?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: With regard to the export of stray cattle, there has not been any demand as such for export of stray cattle. It is for good breeds. Under the scheme which I have already stated before the House, the unclaimed productive stray cattle are distributed free of cost to private breeders, institutions, etc., in the States where cattle wealth is relatively poor.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH: The hon. Minister mentioned that they could be put to use for certain other productive purposes. What are those other productive purposes?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: As I have said, good cattle are sent to other areas, other States, on request by private breeders, institutions etc. The feral cattle, which are caught, are sent to the *Gosadans* within the country.

*18. [The questioner (Shri R. N. Kakati) was absent. For answer, vide col. 43 infra.]

TELEPHONIC FACILITIES AT SURATGARH FARM

*19. SHRI ABDUL GHANI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether Government have provided telephonic facilities to the whole area of the Suratgarh Farm and if not, by what time full facilities would be provided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI) : Certain telephone lines are existing in the Central Mechanised Farm at Suratgarh. Some more ^{^a^i} Miiiftf were received from the

C.M.F. authorities for the expansion of the telephone facilities. These works have been sanctioned but could not be completed for want of certain items of stores. It is expected that the present requirements will be fully met by the end of this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DONORS OF ANIMALS TO DELHI ZOO

*2. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the donors of animals to the Delhi Zoo are allowed to visit the Zoo throughout their lives without payment of admission fee; and

(b) if so, whether this concession is allowed to the members of the donor's family also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

RELAXATION OF LIMIT REGARDING INTER-STATE TRANSPORT

♦10. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to relax the 300 miles limit regarding inter-State transport; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction?