

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: There are two steps taken. One is that we try to see that this does not happen, namely that sanction is not given practically at the end of the year, but where that happens, we have assured the Ministries that in all cases where it is necessary these grants will be provided for in the Supplementary Demands for a year.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: Is the hon. Minister aware that this new procedure to which the Deputy Finance Minister referred just now, namely that until all the details were furnished grants should not be made, will result in many voluntary agencies not getting any grants at all because it is often felt, particularly in the Social Welfare Board and other community development organisations, that it is difficult for them, with the limited administrative staff at their disposal, to give all the details in the first instance. And the result will be that they will not get any grant. Have the Government considered. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are making a speech.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: There is no such difficulty that I have come across. We are making to the Social Welfare Board lump sum grants.

MANUFACTURE OF AVRO-748 AIRCRAFT

***95. DR. A. SUBBA RAO:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian prototype of Avro-748 jet fighter plane is being manufactured in India;

(b) if so, at what stage is the manufacture; and

(c) when the manufacture of the regular aircraft will start?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON): (a) The Avro-748 is not a jet fighter, but a turbo-prop medium transport air-

craft selected for manufacture in India to replace the piston-engined Dakota aircraft (in use in the Indian Air Force). No prototype as such of Avro-748 is being built in India. The first Indian manufactured Avro-748 will be a production aircraft. The Prototypes made by the British Company are already being flight-tested.

(b) and (c) All jigging, tooling and sub-assembly fixtures necessary for the manufacture of the first few aircraft has been practically completed. The first aircraft is expected to be ready for flight trials during the current financial year.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Has this turbo-prop aircraft been offered to the Indian Airlines Corporation also so that they need not have to buy other aircraft of the turbo-prop type from abroad spending foreign exchange?

SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON: At the present moment we are just building it and so the question of selling it to others does not arise at this stage.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: May I know, Sir, if it is not a fact that the Indian Airlines Corporation or rather the Transport Ministry of the Government of India has its own scheme of manufacturing Avro-748 for civilian transport purposes and, if so, has the Defence Ministry considered the question of co-ordinating the needs of the two wings of the Government? If not, why not?

SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON: I am not aware of any such scheme of building transport aircraft within the country and I do not know if anybody has the facilities to do so.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: Sir, in today's papers it has appeared that the first flight will take place on the 1st of April. Is it a fact?

SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON: We cannot tie ourselves to a date, but we hope it may fly in the next financial year.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: On the floor of this House the Transport Minister, Dr. Subbarayan, said that his Ministry had a scheme to manufacture Avro-748 for civil aviation purposes, and the statement, coming as it did from a Member of the Government, cannot be untrue. So, why does the Defence Ministry have its own scheme instead of seeing that an aircraft which is essentially the same for both the wings of the Government is manufactured in one and the same concern?

SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON: Sir, the hon. Member has got it all wrong. There has been no question of the Transport Ministry manufacturing Avro-748. During the discussions various aircraft are being considered and I believe that at one time the Transport Ministry had put forward other suggestions in regard to other aircraft, but at the present moment Avro-748 is being built only at the Air Force Manufacturing Depot at Kanpur.

*96. [The questioners (Shri P. Ramamurti and Shri Bhupesh Gupta) were absent. For answer, vide col. 381 infra.]

*97 to *99. [The questioner (Shri M. P. Bhargava) was absent. For answers, vide cols. 381—84 infra.]

ARREARS OF HOUSE TAX DUE TO THE NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE BY GOVERNMENT

*100. **SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is examining a dispute between the Union Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply and the New Delhi Municipal Committee over the payment of arrears of house tax in regard to Government properties within the jurisdiction of the New Delhi Municipal Committee;

(b) if so, what are the points of dispute between the Ministry concerned and the New Delhi Municipal

Committee and how much amount is involved; and

(c) since how long the arrears have been outstanding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Is it not a fact that the New Delhi Municipal Committee has made certain complaints against the Works and Housing Ministry regarding the arrears of dues owed by that Ministry?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: It was not a question of making complaints; it was a question of correspondence between the Ministry and the New Delhi Municipal Committee. Now, the question has been considered; it is now at the highest level and the matter would be settled. That is neither a complaint nor a dispute as the hon. Member puts it.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir at what stage this consideration is, even at the highest level?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: That it is at the highest level means the last stage.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the amount involved?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I have not got the actual figure, Sir, but it depends upon the different types of taxes to be paid.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, for how long that particular amount in dispute has been outstanding?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I believe it has been outstanding for about three or four years on account of certain unavoidable difficulties but now the matter is nearing a final solution.