

INDIGENOUS MANUFACTURE OF RAILWAY WAGONS

*87. SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the indigenous manufacture of Railway wagons is lagging behind the country's requirements;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to cover the shortage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Delay in the supply of steel.

(ii) Change over to wagons of new design involving preparation and finalisation of new designs after test of prototypes and the consequent necessity for the Wagon Builders to tool up for the new type of design.

(c) The following steps have been taken to increase the output from indigenous wagon builders:—

(i) Import of sections of steel not obtainable in sufficient quantity from indigenous sources.

(ii) Constant liaison with Iron & Steel Controller and the Producers.

(iii) Since the wagon builders have already started production of new type of wagons, it is expected that the production will steadily increase.

RADAR EQUIPMENT FOR VISCOUNTS

*88. SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the expenditure involved in the programme to equip all Viscounts of the Indian Airlines Corporation with radar and by when this work is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): The estimated expenditure on equipping all the 10 Viscounts is about Rs. 21 lakhs and the work is expected to be completed by the end of 1961.

REPRESENTATION FROM INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION REGARDING TELEPHONE RENTS AND TARIFF

*89. SHRI M. BASAVAPUNNAIAH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Indian Medical Association that unless substantial concessions are given regarding telephone rents and tariff many doctors will be forced to discontinue their telephone connections; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN): (a) and (b) Representations from the Association have sought concessions on the rates and terms of payment announced on the 12th March effective from the 1st April 1960. On the 18th May 1960, certain modifications to the rates and mode of payment earlier announced have been made with retrospective effect from 1st April, 1960. No representation from the Indian Medical Association has been received after announcement of the revised terms and conditions.

UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE SCHEMES

*90. SHRI N. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new underground drainage schemes that were approved during the Second Five Year Plan and their estimated cost; and

(b) the number of schemes which were completed upto June 1960 and the total expenditure incurred thereon?