

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: The hon. Minister has just now said that these Russian doctors are our guests and India, as we all know, is a hospitable country. What is the entertainment cost on these doctors whom we are treating as our guests?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, Sir. They are fairly frugal people and we have not to spend anything on their entertainment as such. They are paid for by the Soviet Government and their expenses are met by the Soviet Government. I am not sure whether some small expenditure is given to them for transport.

INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFICERS TO TRAVEL IN THE AIR INDIA INTERNATIONAL PLANES

538. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether Government have issued instructions to all the officers and others travelling at Government expense to the effect that they should travel, as far as possible, by an Air India International plane and not by other alternative Airlines available on the route?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): Yes, Sir. Government servants and others travelling at Government expense are expected to travel by the national airlines as far as possible.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: In how many cases, when the trip is planned outside the country, people travel by planes of other companies and in that case, has the account to be adjusted in the foreign currency?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: The number of passengers travelling by other planes is not readily available with me. But they must be very few under extraordinary circumstances when our planes are fully booked and no seat can be provided for them. Only under that condition, do they travel by other services.

As regards the adjustment of accounts, there is a clearing house arrangement between the various services and we receive the money through the clearing house arrangement.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know whether any Ministers are travelling in planes other than those of Air India International even when seats are available there?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: The same instructions are also applicable to the Ministers. I do not think that any Minister has travelled by planes other than ours.

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS FROM ABROAD IN EXCHANGE OF MANGANESE ORE

***539. MOULANA M. FARUQI:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has obtained foodgrains from abroad in exchange of manganese ore during 1956-57, 1957-58 and so far in 1958-59; and

(b) if so, to what extent and from which countries?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

***540. [The questioner (Dr. R. B. Gour) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3368-3369 infra.]**

PLANES NOT IN USE OF INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION

***541. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the type and the number of planes which are actually not in use in service flights of the Indian Airlines Corporation; and

(b) since when these planes are not in use and what steps are being taken to dispose them of?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN):

(a) Twelve Vikings and three Herons.

(b) The twelve Vikings were withdrawn gradually as and when Viscounts were introduced on trunk routes. The first Viking was withdrawn on 31st October 1957 and the last on 1st April 1958. The Three Herons were withdrawn from service on 1st August 1957, 21st June 1958 and 9th July 1958.

Sufficient publicity has been given in India and abroad for the sale of these aircraft.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know if some Dakotas are also in excess and they are not being used for any service?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: No, Sir.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know how these twelve Vikings were purchased, when were they purchased and why are these Herons not being used on the feeder lines even?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: These Vikings were acquired from the companies which were nationalised in 1953 and the Vikings were used only on trunk lines because they were not suitable for feeder lines.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: In view of the mechanical troubles experienced in these Skymasters, may I know whether there is any proposal to withdraw these Skymasters also?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: No, Sir. There are no frequent troubles in these Skymasters as far as I am aware.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know if it is not a fact that an accident occurred in Madras due to mechanical trouble and that the Skymaster crashed?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: Such occasional troubles do arise, but that does not mean that there are very frequent troubles.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know how many flying hours this Skymaster has done and how many had it done when it was acquired by our Government?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: I have not got those figures because it does not arise out of this question.

SHRI R. G. AGARWALA: May I know, in view of the shortage of service, will the Government of India consider it feasible to put Vikings on the Calcutta trunk route?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: The hon. Member should understand that, when the planes are to be sold, if we start using them, their sale value becomes very much less. We mustn't do that.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know when these planes were for sale and what response has the Government of India received because what I know is that they have no market anywhere in the world.

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: So far no favourable response has been received. That is true.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: May I know the reasons for withdrawing the Vikings?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: The reasons for the withdrawal of the Vikings were that the Viscounts were being used on the Delhi-Calcutta service, and the Delhi-Bombay service. When the Viscounts were received, the Vikings were replaced by them.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if we cannot put these planes to some good use by taking over the non-scheduled airlines which are existing in this country?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: Sir, the question of taking over the non-scheduled airlines is quite different.

There is another question here which is coming up later . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will answer it then?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: If you allow it.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Sir, if the new route pattern for making the optimum use of these Vikings comes into force, certainly some of the Dakotas will become surplus then. What does the Government propose to do with those Dakotas?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: Sir, that is a suggestion for action.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: What does the Government propose to do about those surplus Dakotas? According to the new route pattern, when it comes into force, some of these Dakotas will become surplus.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will think about it when we are faced with that problem.

THREAT OF SOIL EROSION IN GHAR IN UTTAR PRADESH

*542. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of Food AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint about hazards of soil erosion which is seriously threatening over fifty per cent area of Ghar in the District of Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) what action Government propose to take in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) and (b). The Government of India as well as the U.P. Government have not received any such complaints. However, the State Government is aware of the problem and they are taking suitable soil conservation measures for treating the areas.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, if any survey has been made in the Ghar area either by the State Government or by the Central Government?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No, Sir. No survey as such has been made, although the State Planning Department of U.P. is looking after this subject, and it is training certain village level workers to do this soil conservation work.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, if any hon. Minister of the Government has seen the news which was published in all the newspapers to the effect that about 1,000 families had been affected by this hazard of soil erosion in the Ghar area?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I have not seen it, Sir.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, if the hon. Minister is aware that Saharanpur is the hometown of the Minister of Food and Agriculture, and that is why all this erosion is taking place there?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

ALL INDIA SOIL AND LAND USE SURVEY SCHEME

*543. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of Food AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the All India Soil and Land Use Survey Scheme; and

(b) whether any survey scheme has started functioning and whether the land use maps have been prepared?

THE MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) and (b). The scheme started functioning from March, 1958. Reconnaissance soil survey of about 11,00,000 acres and detailed soil survey of about 1,42,000 acres have been completed so far. No land use map has yet been prepared.