

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 PARMA-NAND: 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 PARMA-NAND: 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?