

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, 2nd December 1957

The House met at half past two of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

EXPANSION OF MARSHALLING YARD AT MOGHALSARAI

*229. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the marshalling yard at Moghalsarai is being expanded, and if so, when the expansion work will be finished; and

(b) whether after the expansion of the Moghalsarai yard, Varanasi, Allahabad and other yards will also require to be expanded?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir. It will take 2 to 3 years to complete the work.

(b) No change is envisaged in Varanasi yard on account of the expansion of the Moghalsarai Yard. Allahabad and other yards will have to be expanded consequent upon the expansion of Moghalsarai Yard.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know the present capacity of the marshalling yard of Moghalsarai station and what would be its holding capacity after the expansion?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Originally the Moghalsarai yard was built for a capacity of 1,400 wagons either way. At present we are handling roughly 2,000 wagons either way. After expansion the holding capacity will be 3,000 wagons either way.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether it is a fact that Moghalsarai yard is the largest in India if not the largest in Asia and if after

expansion it will be the largest in Asia?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It is quite true, Sir.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know what is the estimated cost of the expansion?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, during the Second Five Year Plan period we have set aside Rs. 115 lakhs for the expansion of this yard and this has been included in the works programme for 1957-58.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether loops, new block ruts and conversion of single end lines will also be undertaken in the Northern Railway, particularly at Moghalsarai?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: All these items are included in the works programme.

OPERATION OF VISCOUNT AIRCRAFT

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

(a) whether the Indian Airlines Corporation have started the Viscount Aircraft Services between Delhi-Calcutta-Bombay and Madras; and

(b) if so, whether the running frequency of plane service has also been increased as compared to Skymaster Services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): (a) The Indian Airlines Corporation have introduced Viscount services between Delhi, Calcutta and Rangoon and between Bombay and Delhi. No other Viscount service has been introduced as yet.

(b) No, Sir.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: What about the Calcutta-Rangoon service? Is it to be started or not?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I have just now told the hon. Member that there is a Viscount service between Delhi, Calcutta and Rangoon.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: What is the operational cost of a Viscount plane as compared with that of a Skymaster plane?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The operational cost cannot be given in exact details because Viscounts have been in use only for about a month. But the estimate is that the cost of revenue flying hour will be about Rs. 1,800 to Rs. 1,900 for a Viscount. The cost for the Skymaster is a little over Rs. 1,500.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: When will the Viscount service start on the Madras-Delhi route?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The Viscount service from Delhi-Madras will start fairly soon.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: Will it be a day service or a night service?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: It will be a day service.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: What ports will it touch? What will be the halting places?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Well, Hyderabad is likely to be on the route, but I cannot give any final reply because they are working on the pattern still.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether these planes are run on kerosene and not on aviation petrol and if so how much foreign exchange would be saved by introducing this service?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Sir, this will require a degree of calculation on account of which I cannot give an answer without very long notice.

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVAR-GIYA: Are they run on kerosene?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Yes, they will be run on kerosene.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Is it the intention of Government to replace the Skymasters in the night air mail service by Viscount planes?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I don't think the Government comes into the picture. It is for the Indian Airlines to decide. They have to decide which will be the most useful for this service.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: In view of the fact that the night air mail service does not halt at Bhopal and Hyderabad which are two important capital cities, if this service is going to be replaced by a Viscount service, is it likely that Hyderabad and Bhopal will be included as halts in this night air mail service?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The possibilities are that the Viscount halts will be less than those of Dakotas or Vikings or even Skymasters.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether the decision to use Viscounts has necessitated the employment of the services of an Air Commodore by the I.A.C. or was it the recommendation of the Estimates Committee? If so, has the Air Commodore taken over charge as General Manager?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The hon. Member is probably aware that Air Commodore Lall has taken over charge as General Manager of the I.A.C. But it has no direct relation with the use of the Viscounts or any other particular kind of aeroplane.

EARNINGS FROM PURI AND RANCHI HOTELS RUN BY RAILWAYS

*231. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the annual income from the Puri and Ranchi hotels run by Railways during the years 1955-56, 1956-57 and so far in 1957-58 and the number of persons who stayed in those hotels year-wise during the same years?