

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, 10th September 1957

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MANGO RESEARCH STATIONS

*546. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government propose to open new Research Stations on mango, if so, how many?

THE MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION <DR. P. S. DESHMUKH>: Yes; six.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know the name of the different centres and also know what are the different species of mangoes that are undergoing experiments in these research stations?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The whole thing is rather new. There was a meeting in the month of October 1956 when it was decided that we should have six centres. The centres are as follows:

Kodur in Andhra Pradesh; Poona in Bombay; Sabour in Bihar; Krishnagar in West Bengal; Saharanpur/Rishikesh, U.P.;

A Station to be selected in Eastern U.P. for work on mango and guava.

All important varieties will be looked after at the stations. We have not yet much work to our credit. So I cannot say what work is done.

*547. [The questioner (Shri N. Ramakrishna Iyer) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 4429-4430 infra.]

56 R.S.D.—1.

LOW UTILISATION RATE OF 1500 HOURS PER ANNUM OF I.A.C. AIRCRAFT

*548. SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the low utilisation rate of 1500 hours per annum of the aircraft of the Indian Airlines Corporation; and

(b) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): (a) The characteristics of the route pattern, the restriction of operations mainly to day services, the available traffic potential and the lack of pilots have stood in the way of higher utilisation of the aircraft of the Indian Airlines Corporation.

(b) The situation can be permanently improved only through the development of the traffic potential of the country in respect of both passenger and freighter services. Attempts are also being made to attract a greater proportion of the existing traffic. In addition, wherever possible, the same aircraft is being utilised for operating the night and the day air services. By advance planning the utilisation of freighter aircraft is being increased. The pilot strength is also being built up.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: May I know if there is any considerable improvement in utilisation rates since the I.A.C. took over from the different companies?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: There has been some improvement in the utilisation.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: May I know if the life of these aircraft* depend on utilisation or not?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Yes.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: May I know if Government think that more rational distribution