

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: May I know what is the position in other airlines besides this?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That is what I have said. Most of the international airlines don't keep radio officers separately.

مولانا ایم - فاروقی : میں نے پہلے عرض کیا تھا کہ کن ملکوں سے یہ جہاز منگائے گئے ہیں ؟

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श्री राज बहादुर : युनाइटेड स्टेट्स आफ अमेरिका से ?

مولانا ایم - فاروقی : قیمتیں کیا ہیں ان جہازوں کی ؟

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श्री राज बहादुर : जो जहाज पहले मंगाये गये थे उनकी कीमत मय स्पेयस और औजार वगैरह के ३०४१२ लाख है ।

Ans; SERVICES TO U.K.

*238. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the frequency of services of the Air India International to the United Kingdom have gone up to six per week; if so, since when;

(b) if not, whether it is proposed to do so shortly; and

(c) the extent to which the annual income of the Corporation is likely to increase as a result of the above increase in the frequency of the services to the United Kingdom'

fEnglish translation.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir, from 1st July, 1955.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As indicated in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 237 answered by me just now, the increase in revenue on the India-U.K. route for the year 1955-56 over that for the year 1954-55 is expected to be about Rs. 165.6 lakhs.

DIWAN CHAM AN LALL: Is it a fact that these aircraft have been giving a lot of trouble on these routes?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: There were some teething mechanical troubles which are usual with new aircraft. They have all been overcome now.

ACCUMULATION OF BIDI TOBACCO

*239. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large stocks of bidi tobacco have accumulated with the bidi tobacco growers and traders;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to ease the situation; and

(c) the details of the scheme sponsored by Government for the cultivation of fine-textured, flue-cured Virginia tobacco?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

I.—Steps to help the disposal of accumulated Stocks of bidi tobacco.

Part (b). The Government of India are taking the following steps to help

the disposal of the accumulated stocks of *bidi* tobacco:

(i) Excise duty levied on tobacco capable of being used for manufacture of *bidis* which was reduced from Rs. -/14/- to Rs. -/10/6 per lb. w.e.f. 10th April 1955 in respect of pre-1954 stocks, has been further reduced to Rs. -/7/- per lb. w.e.f. 28th July, 1955. The reduced rate of Rs. -/7/- is almost at par with the rate of excise duty leviable on *hookah*, chewing and Enuff tobacco and this enables the inferior *bidi* tobacco to be used now along with *hookah*, snuff and chewing tobacco. The reduction in excise duty is thus likely to help the disposal of the accumulated stocks of tobacco.

(ii) Quantitative restrictions existing until recently on the export of *bidi*, *bidi* leaf, and *bidi* tobacco, have been withdrawn from March 1955.

(iii) A proposal to appoint an Expert Committee to go into the question of revision of tariff classification and other cognate matters in regard to tobacco (including *bidi* tobacco), as a result of the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission, is under the consideration of Government.

(iv) Samples of *bidi* tobacco and *bidis* are despatched whenever necessary, to the Government of India Trade Representatives in the countries interested in *bidi* tobacco. viz. Ceylon, Muscat Territory, Aden and Dependencies, Bahrein Island, Kuwait, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

(v) 1 Important research and extension schemes on *bidi* tobacco are being undertaken through the Indian Central Tobacco Committee.

II.—*Details of Tobacco Extension Scheme in the Guntur District of Andhra.*

Part (c) This apparently refers to the Tobacco Extension Scheme in the Guntur District of Andhra State, start-

ed by the Government of India in conjunction with the Andhra Government w.e.f. 1st April 1955. The scheme has been sanctioned initially for a period of 2 years at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,47,646 to be shared by the Government, of India with the State Government on the following basis:

(i) The Government of India will bear 75 per cent, of the expenditure during 1955-56, the remaining 25 per cent, being borne by the State Government,

(ii) the expenditure during 1956-57 will be shared by the Government of India and the State Government on a 50:50 basis,

(iii) the property acquired under the scheme will remain the property of the Central Government.

object of the scheme is to impart practical knowledge by ocular and other actual demonstrations to the tobacco grower in the scientific methods of cultivation, harvesting proper loading in the barns, correct method of curing the leaf, handling and grading so as to effect immediate improvement both in the quality of the leaf and in the yield per acre, so that Indian tobacco may effectively compete with tobacco of foreign origin in international markets and growers may also get a higher return for their produce.

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADARAO: What is the amount of stocks lying unsold and what is the last date for which the figures are available?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Unsold stocks stood in the neighbourhood of 51 million pounds.

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADARAO: Is the accumulation of stocks the result of the grading of tobacco tax on *bidi* tobacco?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I do not think so, Sir.

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADARAO: Was any proposal made for the

regfring of this tobacco excise duty on *bidi* tobacco?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Not to my knowledge.

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADARAO: The statement here refers only to the Tobacco Extension Scheme in the Guntur District. Was any proposal made for the extension of this scheme for the growth of Virginia tobacco in Bihar State, and was it opposed by the I.L.T.D. company?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I must ask for notice.

SHRI KANHAIYALAL D. VAIDYA: How much tobacco was exported in 1953-54 and in 1954-55?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I have not got the figures.

PROF. G. RANG A: Will Government examine the question as to what effect the upgrading or regirjding of the tobacco tax is having upon the capacity of the producers there to dispose of their *bidi* tobacco?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We contemplated that it will, to a certain extent, be beneficial, but we will certainly find out what the effect has been.

EXPLOITATION OF SEA FOOD RESOURCES

*240. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount provided for exploiting the country's sea-food resources under the first Five Year Plan; and

(b) the total fishable area of the country and the total area being worked at present?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Rs. 67 lakhs approximately.

(b) Roughly one lakh sq. miles. The area worked at present will be about thirty thousand sq. miles.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Has there been a survey of the fishing fields?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir; all that we have done in this field is to carry out a very comprehensive survey of the area we can cope with.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Which is considered the most fertile field?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Comparisons are not welcome and we have also not come to a stage when we can really give an opinion.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: When will the entire area be covered?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: In due course.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: May I know whether any areas were worked in the Andhra coast?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The Madras Government used to be concerned with this. I must ask for notice.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: Ts Madras Government concerned with Andhra?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not now; used to be.

ATTACHMENT OF PASSENGER BOGIES TO GOODS TRAINS BETWEEN BARAJAMDA AND BARABIL

*241. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for attaching passenger bogies to the goods trains between Barajamda and Barabil; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) A representation was received early this year for the introduction of a passenger train between Barajamda and Barabil.

(b) The proposal was examined but found neither feasible nor justified.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Under what circumstances did the Government