

AIR LINKS BETWEEN DELHI AND STATE CAPITALS

363. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to provide air links between the capital of each State and Delhi; and

(b) whether any survey is being conducted for selecting suitable sites for the construction of aerodromes near the State capitals for the above purpose?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM):

(a) Yes, it is the policy of the Government of India to provide an air link for the capital of each State provided there is sufficient air-traffic potential and a suitable site is available in the vicinity for an aerodrome.

(b) Out of the 27 States in India, aerodromes already exist at the capitals of 20, as shown in the statement which I lay on the Table. [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 200.]

It is proposed to construct an aerodrome at Chandigarh shortly. Preliminary surveys are in hand for selecting a suitable site for the construction of an aerodrome near Shillong also.

EMPLOYEES OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

364. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold an enquiry into the wage structure and the living and working conditions of the Civil Aviation Department employees;

(b) whether Government have been requested by the employees to hold such an enquiry; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the

main reasons for which such an enquiry has been asked for?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM):

(a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Civil Aviation Department Employees' Union have alleged that the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission are not adequate in the matter of pay, etc., in so far as they relate to the Civil Aviation Department and that their living conditions need improvement.

TRIPARTITE INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE ON PLANTATIONS (FIFTH SESSION)

365. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to my starred question No. 332 on the 16th March 1954 and state:

(a) whether any proposal for the cash conversion of foodgrains concessions for tea-garden labourers in West Bengal was discussed by the conference in question; and

(b) whether the question of the introduction of a Provident Fund for tea labour in West Bengal was also discussed?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI): (a) No.

(b) No.

AERODROMES JOINTLY USED BY THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT AND INDIAN AIR FORCE

366. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of air-fields in India which are used by the Indian Air Force and the Civil Aviation Department jointly;

(b) what is the ratio in which the cost of maintenance and improvement of these air-fields is shared between them; and