

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has decided to acquire a ship from Yugoslavia which will ensure all weather service between the mainland and the offshore islands of Lacadives; and

(b) if so, what will be the cost of the vessel and what is its passenger carrying capacity?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Shipping Corporation of India have placed an order in Yugoslavia for the construction of a passenger-cargo vessel for service between the mainland and the Laccadive Islands throughout the year.

(b) The cost of the vessel will be Rs. 157.50 lakhs. The Ship is of 1800 DWT with a passenger carrying capacity of 112 and cargo capacity of 800 tons.

•207 [Transferred to the 30th July, 1968].

CARAVELLE FLIGHT FROM DELHI TO MADRAS

298. SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY :
SHRI M. K. MOHTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state.

(a) the present route followed by caravelle planes for their flight from Delhi to Madras;

(b) what is the shortest route between Delhi and Madras; and

(c) if the shortest route is not being followed what is the excess fuel consumed and the manpower lost in the process?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The shortest route between Delhi and Madras will be a direct flight between the two points, involving a distance of 950 nautical miles. Due to operational and technical reasons, the present route followed by the Caravelle aircraft is Delhi-Sona-Dig-Bhopal-Yellareddy-Vikarabad-Madras involving a distance of 995 nautical miles. The excess fuel consumption due to this diverted route is 875 litres per round trip. The excess man hours involved per month is 49 made up of 21 hours of flying crew and 28 hours of cabin crew.

IMPERIAL HOTEL

209. SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Imperial hotel in Delhi has been closed:

(b) if so, the total number of employees affected by the closure:

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Tourism Department is giving necessary help to the new owner of this Hotel;

(d) if so, the total amount sanctioned so far;

(e) whether all the employees of the hotel were retained on their original service conditions; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total number of employees affected by the closure were 293.

(c) All necessary assistance is being extended by the Department of Tourism to the new owners in securing import licences for equipment, machinery etc. in accordance with the rules laid down by the Government.

(d) Nil, as no financial assistance from the Government has been asked for by the new management of the hotel.

(e) and (f) With the closure of the Imperial Hotel, the services of all the employees were terminated as per the agreement between the management and the employees. It is further understood that since the hotel is still undergoing extensive repairs and renovations, the new management of the hotel has not employed any regular staff for the hotel as yet.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM IN HINDI IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

210. SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued a circular directing all the Public Schools to conduct the school curriculum in Hindi; and

(b) if so, on what basis this circular has been issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

BURNING ALIVE OF CHILDREN AT SRINIVASAPURI, NEW DELHI

211. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some miscreants burnt alive three children in Srin-