

(c) A Statement giving broad details of the agreement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix, annexure No. 32].

Shri P. Kunhan: May I know whether the agreement with Messrs. Alco Products Inc. of America prevents us from purchasing more diesel locomotives from other countries?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Why should we purchase when we manufacture ourselves? There is no need.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: May I know what the annual production of these diesel locomotives would be?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It is a phased programme. The annual production would be of the order of about 150 by the end of 1967.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From the statement I find that the firm will also arrange for the training of Government personnel in America and submit a detailed scheme for training of artisans and supervisors in India. May I know whether any scheme has been chalked out under which some Government servants could be trained, and if so, when?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Our trainees will be sent as and when required. They are under training in India already.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Pending the completion of this project, which the hon. Minister said would take another five years, what is the estimated expenditure that we have to incur for importing diesel locomotives up to the year 1967?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: That would be a different question altogether, for which the answers have been given earlier, namely that our total requirement would be of the order of about 550 diesel locomotives in the 3rd Plan Period. We have imported some already, and some are on the way. In the meantime, the gap will be filled by imports. Let me clear up the position in regard to the programme of manufacture. The pro-

duction target is 150 per annum in 1967. We have got a phased programme. In 1963-64, it will be 12; in 1964-65 it will be 29, and in 1965-66 it will be 54.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे बोर्ड ने ट्रेनों को बिजली से चलाने की सिफारिश की है और इससे डीजल लोकोमोटिव का काम हल्का हो गया है ?

रेलवे मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खान) : जिस इलाके में बिजली से चलने वाली गाड़ियां आ जाती हैं, डीजल के इंजनों को वहां से हटा कर दूसरे इलाके में भेज दिया जाता है। यह सही है कि इस हद तक उस इलाके में डीजल लोकोमोटिव का काम कुछ खत्म सा हो जाता है।

Shri D. C. Sharma: From the statement I find that the firm will be given lumpsum payments for designs and other things, and those lumpsums vary according to the design and the item. The firm will also be entitled to an engineering fee and a royalty linked to the actual production as achieved in India. So, I think the firm is going to get three kinds of payments, lumpsum payments for designs, engineering fee and also royalty. May I know the quantum of payment under each one of these heads?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: At present, it will be against public interest to disclose them.

Proposal to Self Heron and Viking Aircrafts

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- *158. { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Morarka:
Shri Rajeshwar Patel:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Shri R. S. Pandey:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines Corporation recently

proposed to sell some of their Heron and Viking Aircrafts;

(b) if so, how many aircrafts were to be sold and on what terms they were offered for sale; and

(c) whether the same have actually been sold and if so, at what price?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) to (c). The Indian Airlines Corporation have advertised recently offering for sale their 12 Vikings and 7 Herons together with the related spare parts and spare engines. The offers received are under their consideration.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether any global tenders have been called for, and if so from which countries the offers have come?

Shri Mohiuddin: I am afraid I have not got all that information with me at present, and it would not be desirable either to state at this stage from where the offers have been received.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know for how long these aircraft have been in the service of the IAC, and whether it is a fact that these aircraft were not found fit for service by the IAC?

Shri Mohiuddin: This question about the Herons has been discussed so many times before in this House, and the full explanation has been given about this matter.

Shri Morarka: Is it not a fact that these Vikings were declared surplus in 1955, and now the corporation cannot sell them even at scrap value?

Shri Mohiuddin: Yes, that is true.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know the reasons why even though these Vikings were declared useless in 1955, they have not been sold so far?

Shri Mohiuddin: Since 1956-57, every effort has been made to sell them. But the demand for these Vikings was not very strong in the world market, and no suitable offers were received. Therefore, even

though the IAC has been trying to sell them for a long time, they have failed.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: Have Government received any proposals for the purchase of these Herons and Vikings?

Shri Mohiuddin: Proposals have been received for the Vikings and Herons.

Shri Rajeshwar Patel: Have Government offered the services of these planes to the Defence Ministry, and if so, whether they have accepted the same?

Shri Mohiuddin: That problem is also under active consideration.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): As a matter of fact, this question of the Vikings being utilised by the Defence Ministry was considered. Air Vice-Marshal Harjinder Singh, who is in charge of Kanpur Avros, himself came and discussed the matter. Then he sent a team of engineers to examine whether the Vikings could be utilised for any purpose by them anywhere in the Air Force. After examining that, the team came to the conclusion that it was not worth using them. Therefore, they are going to be finally disposed of.

Shri Basumatari: I want to know whether in the present emergency Government are not thinking of giving up this proposal to sell the aircraft when we require so many aircraft.

Mr. Speaker: That has been answered that that is under consideration.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No, Sir. I have just answered about the Vikings so that the House may know the position. So far as the Herons are concerned, the Air Force said that they cannot use them. I ordered IAC to make the Herons fliaible because they have been lying grounded for the last four or five years. They are being made fliaible, and in case of emergency, the IAC Dakotas may

be used for the Air Force and the Herons may be run on small routes by IAC, even though they are not remunerative. At present, this is the position. If we get reasonable offers for the aircraft, we may dispose them off.

Shri Morarka: Is it not a fact that two of these Vikings were actually sold for £ 47,500 but due to delay on the part of Government in issuing necessary licences, the deal was cancelled?

Shri Mohiuddin: There was an offer as mentioned by the hon. Member, but it was later withdrawn. Of course, if it had stood, they would certainly have been sold.

Shri Bade: What is the reason for withdrawal of the offer?

No answer was given.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point of order. In reply to a question by Shri P. C. Borooah, if I heard the Deputy Minister aright, he said that it was not desirable to give the information asked for as to from whom offers were received. Is it because Government thinks that it is not desirable in the public interest or not desirable in the Government's interest, to disclose it?

Shri Mohiuddin: May I explain? It is a commercial transaction....

Mr. Speaker: He is taking a technical objection, making a distinction between Government's interest and public interest. It is only in the public interest that Ministers do not disclose such information. Next question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He has not answered it.

Mr. Speaker: Next question

Testing of Agricultural Produce

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- *159. { **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Sham Lal Saraf:
Shri Basumatari:

Will the Minister of Food and

Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to establish a laboratory in Calcutta for testing and analysing the quality of agricultural produce; and

(b) if so, whether this laboratory will cater to Bengal alone or other adjoining States will also benefit from it?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The laboratory will cater to the needs of the entire eastern region comprising West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Tripura and Manipur.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Will this laboratory cater for the testing and analysing of food crops or cash crops or of both?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: This will be utilised for analysing samples of ghee, vegetable oils, oilcakes, honey, atta, curry powders, spices, gur etc.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: What is the estimated cost of this project? Will the entire cost be borne by the Central Government or will the West Bengal Government also share in it?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Actually, we have an allocation of Rs. 20 lakhs for setting up such laboratories. This laboratory has not yet been established, but we propose to establish it soon and the cost will be calculated.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: The hon. Minister has said that this laboratory will serve Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Tripura and Manipur. Are Government contemplating setting up such a laboratory to cater to the needs of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh where cotton and oilseeds are cultivated?

Shri Ram Subhag Singh: Yes. The scheme is to establish one central control laboratory at Nagpur and 8 regional laboratories at Kampur,