

cently imposed curb on foreign travel has adversely affected the finances of the Air India; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to stabilize the financial position of this public undertaking?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) Passenger revenue earned by Indian stations during July/August/September, 1962, show a drop of over 20 per cent as compared to the corresponding period last year. This drop is attributable to the restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank on foreign travel, effective from 1st July, 1962.

(b) In order to increase the Air India's revenue earnings, more intensive sales efforts are directed towards the following categories of traffic:—

(i) Passengers who do not require a 'P' form to leave the country i.e., foreign nationals temporarily resident in India.

(ii) Businessmen and students for whom the Reserve Bank grant 'P' forms on merit.

(iii) Cargo traffic.

(iv) Traffic from foreign countries to India and other points on the Air India's routes.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: How many flights per week are being operated by the Air India International at present, and what is the average number of passengers per flight?

Shri Mohiuddin: The number of flights to London is the same as previously—seven flights a week. As regards the load, I have already stated that it has reduced.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: In view of the decrease in revenue, may I know whether the Ministry has approached the Finance Ministry for some concessions or relaxation of restrictions?

Shri Mohiuddin: No, Sir.

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Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Is it a fact that the fall in traffic is more in the west-bound flights than in the east-bound ones?

Shri Mohiuddin: That is true because the restrictions are for our travellers mainly from India to West.

I.D.A. Credit for P. & T. Department

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*282. {
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Tan Singh:
Shri A. V. Raghavan:
Shri Pottekkatt:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Development Association has extended a credit of \$ 42 million to India for the P. & T. Department; and

(b) if so, how the credit is proposed to be utilised?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) The credit will be utilised for the purchase of telecommunication materials to be imported from abroad.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, क्या यह बताने की कृपा की जाएगी कि यह जो ऋण लिया गया है यह किन शर्तों पर लिया गया है ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : शर्त तो यह है कि इस पर सूद बहुत कम होता है और इसको बहुत लम्बे अरसे के बाद वापस करना होता है ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, इस ऋण से जो धन प्राप्त हो रहा है, इसके देर से देर कब तक उपयोग कर लिये जाने की आशा की जा सकती है ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : इसी पंचवर्षीय योजना के भीतर ।

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is it a fact that a special delegation of the P&T Board was deputed for this purpose and if so, was the Indian diplomatic mission on the spot not able to negotiate this transaction?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes; a delegation was sent and it was at the instance of the World Bank and our embassy there.

Shri A. V. Raghavan: May I know whether there is any proposal to utilise any portion of this amount for providing direct telephone and telegraph facilities between Trivandrum and Kozhikode?

Mr. Speaker: It is a different question.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: By what time would the first instalment be arriving in India and what would be the amount of the first instalment?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: This is for the import of material. Specifications are being worked out, and as soon as they have been worked out, world tenders will have to be invited. After the world tenders are invited, the materials will be imported and payment will be made by the IDA.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know what special projects are going to be taken up with the credit of the IDA?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is not for any one project. It is for the general increase of the telecommunication facilities in the country.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There is much noise. I cannot carry on the proceedings in this manner. Either I should stop or hon. Members should. Shri Pottekkatt.

Shri Pottekkatt: May I know whether any amount will be set apart for telegraph and telephone communications in Kerala?

Mr. Speaker: That does not arise. Next question.

Crop Insurance

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*284. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**
Shri Sham Lal Saraf:
Shri Inder J. Malhotra:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress that has so far been made in giving a start to Crop Insurance; and

(b) whether along with Crop Insurance Cattle Insurance will also be introduced?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) In pursuance of the assurance given to Parliament in 1947 a scheme of crop insurance was formulated and circulated to various State Governments for adoption. The State Governments did not however find it possible to implement the scheme owing to financial stringency.

The Government of Punjab has, however, made a provision for implementing a pilot scheme for crop insurance during the Third Plan period. The work is likely to start in 1963-64, after legislation for this purpose is undertaken as the scheme is to be implemented on compulsory basis.

Further continuance of this scheme in Punjab or its adoption by other States will depend on the result achieved in connection with this pilot scheme.

(b) No.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether the Government have examined the feasibility of such insurance and, if so, what are the measures?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes; we have examined the feasibility and we think that it is quite feasible to be introduced, and therefore, we have advised the State Governments to undertake it if they so desire.