

STATEMENT

Air Customs Pool

Following steps have been taken for reducing silt accumulation in the reservoirs in the country:

1. The Government of India have sponsored a programme during the Third Plan period with an allocation of Rs. 11 crores for soil conservation of catchments of 14 River Valley Projects. During the first three years of the Third Plan, 1,30,359 hectares (3,22,124 acres) have been covered with soil conservation measures at an expenditure of Rs. 4.75 crores.

2. Aerial photography has been undertaken for locating the sediment sources. This will enable the States for preparation of soil conservation plans. An area of 140879 sq. kilometres (54394 sq. miles) has been covered with aerial photography.

3. It has also been proposed to establish 161 silt observation posts in the tributaries/sub-tributaries of the projects in order to assess the current soil losses and later to evaluate the effectiveness of the soil conservation measures in the catchments. Out of these, 63 observation sites have so far been set up.

4. The State Governments have been addressed to adopt necessary techniques for protecting the foreshore areas and reducing silt load.

Committee on Transport Policy and Coordination

Shri Daji:

*245. { Shri N. R. Laskar:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Transport Policy and Coordination has finalised its report; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) and (b). The report is under preparation and is expected to be submitted by the end of November, 1964

*246. { Shri A. V. Raghavan:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri B. P. Yadava:
Shri Dhaom:
Shri Bishenchander Seth:
Shri Surindra Pal Singh:
Shri Inderjit Gupta:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to set up a separate cadre to be called the Air Customs Pool;

(b) if so, whether this Pool will be trained on an All India basis; and

(c) the estimated strength and the proposed method of selection to this Pool?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) A separate pool of Air Customs staff has been organised.

(b) The Air Custom's Pool is being constituted on an All India basis and training will be imparted to its staff.

(c) (i) The sanctioned strength of the Air Customs Pool of the Gazetted and non-Gazetted grades at present is 271.

(ii) Mode of selection: Initial selection has been made from amongst persons recommended by Collectors of Customs and Collectors of Central Excise on the basis of prescribed minimum service. The persons recommended by the Collectors were interviewed and selections made by a Screening Committee;

(iii) The rules governing the mode of selection of persons and their appointment in future vacancies, are being finalised.