

Shortage of Civil Air Pilots

*428. **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**
Shri Kindar Lal:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the Minister of **Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of civil air pilots as a result of which the expansion of air transport in the country has been greatly retarded;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to remove this shortcoming in the way of the expansion of our air transport?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). At present there is no shortage of civil air pilots. Commercial pilots available in the open market and qualified pilots released by Air Force at intervals, meet the requirements of the scheduled as well as non-scheduled operators. Shortage of pilots was however felt in the recent past by the two Air Corporations owing to their extended operations and adherence to certain flight and duty time limitations.

(c) Steps were taken for recruitment of pilots and arrangements were also made to train suitable candidates, through selected Flying Clubs, for issue of Commercial Pilot's Licence.

Loan for Calcutta Port Trust

*429. **Shri B. K. Das:**
Dr. M. M. Das:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of **Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loan of Rs. two crores to the Calcutta Port Trust,

provided in the Budget Estimates of 1966-67, has been paid to the Trust;

(b) if so, the development works that will be carried on with this loan; and

(c) the conditions, if any, on which the loan has been given to the Trust?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) A loan amounting to Rs. 225 lakhs has so far been given to the Calcutta Port Commissioners during the financial year 1966-67.

(b) The details of the development works that will be carried out with this loan are as follows:

- (1) Improvement and extension of the Marshalling Yard.
- (2) Construction of an office building for the Traffic Department in the Dock area.
- (3) Construction of three launches for 3 dredgers.
- (4) Construction of a Tea Warehouse at the Lybian Depot.
- (5) Building the Bucket Dredger 'AJAY' and two Hopper barges.
- (6) Replacement of No. 2 Swing Bridge.
- (7) Re-circulation of Dock water in the Kidderpore Docks.
- (8) Expansion of one arm of the King George's Dock.
- (9) Purchase of Plant and Machinery for the Commissioners' Workshops.
- (10) Construction of a new Hospital for the Commissioners' employees, and
- (11) Haldia Dock Project works including acquisition of land for this purpose.

(c) The terms and conditions of the loan are as follows:—

- (1) The loans are recoverable in 20 annual equated instalments comprising both principal and interest.
- (2) Repayment will commence from the 6th anniversary of the dates on which the loans have been drawn.
- (3) Interest alone would be recovered on each of the 5 anniversaries from the dates the loans have been drawn.
- (4) The loans will carry interest at 8.25 per cent per annum but if the instalments of principal and/or interest are paid on the due dates, the rate of interest will be reduced to 5.75 per cent per annum.

Cost of American Wheat

*430. **Shri Madhu Limaye:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in a position to give definite figures about the average cost of each of the different grades of American wheat per kilo imported under P.L. 480 during the three year period of 1963-66, including cost, transport from the port of supply, handling charges, etc., at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras;

(b) the price at which it was sold to the consumer in the ration shops in these cities during the above period; and

(c) the reasons for the difference between the cost and selling price?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) For the purposes of distribution as also maintenance of accounts all varieties of wheat imported from America under PL-480 are treated as of one grade. The average cost, sea freight and incident-

tal expenses incurred on various services from the stage of discharge and clearance at the ports (including Bombay, Calcutta and Madras) in India up to the stage of distribution at the Central Storage godowns during the period of three financial years 1963-64 to 1965-66 are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7377/66].

(b) The prices for the years 1963-66 (last month of each year) at which this wheat was sold to the consumers from the fair price shops at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras are given in another statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7377/66].

(c) The reasons for the difference between the economic cost and the actual selling prices are the element of subsidy, the incidental charges of the State Government and the margin of profit of the retailers.

Coastal Shipping

*431. **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Dr. M. M. Das:

Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coastal Shipping is facing a crisis due to high excise duty on furnace oil and Devaluation;

(b) whether any representation has been received to increase the freight rate and also to set up permanent body like Maritime Freight Commission; and

(c) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). Some representations in this regard have been received.