

the rural areas. The work is progressing and the staff will also be increased.

Shrimati Savitry Nigam: May I know what special measures have been taken by the Government to popularise this rural insurance in the village areas and whether some rural agents are being trained in the insurance technique or not?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The LIC has started with a pilot scheme.

Mr. Speaker: A new scheme has been started and the statement gives the agents who would be appointed for that scheme.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The panchayat and the branch post offices will be the agents.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : यह देखा गया है कि रूरल एरिया में जो फील्ड वर्कर काम करते हैं वह बाजारों को लेते हैं न कि गांवों में जाते हैं। गांवों में जाने के लिये सरकार ने क्या इन्तिजाम सोचा है।

श्री ब० रा० भात : गांवों में जाने के लिये यह सब इन्तिजाम हो रहा है।

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy May I know what is the percentage of total business in the urban and the rural areas?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The scheme has just been started, and the hon. Members should wait for some time before the results can be given.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: What I wanted to know was whether there is any break-up of the urban and rural business done so far.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I want a separate notice for that.

Mr. Speaker: I presumed that he had not got the figures.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know whether it is a fact that the risk involved is accepted only when the money is received at the central office and not in the branch offices;

if so, for expansion of LIC's business in the rural areas, may I know whether it is not possible to accept the risk as soon as the money is deposited in the rural branch offices?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai) The scheme is very simple. It has been simplified for this very purpose. The whole group including the medical doctor and others goes to the villages, there a person is examined and nothing else is required afterwards. As soon as he makes the payment the policy is issued. So, there is no question of any difficulty in that matter.

Mr. Speaker: One hon. Member has written to me that in spite of my taking a resolve with the consent of the hon. Members that we should cover more questions, the same number of supplementaries are being allowed and we are not making any progress.

Supersonic Jet Aircraft

*693. { ⁺ Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any further development has been made of the first Prototype of the Supersonic jet aircraft designed and developed by Hindustan Aircraft Ltd.;

(b) if so, the nature of development made; and

(c) when it is expected to be fully developed for commercial manufacture?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) and (b). Progressive development of this successful aircraft is being carried out.

(c) Simultaneously with such development the aircraft production is being progressed as planned.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether it has been able to increase the speed of this aircraft

Shri Raghuramaiah: On the 26th April this aircraft crossed the sound barrier.

Shri Subodh Hansda: My question was whether it has been able to increase the speed of the aircraft.

Shri Raghuramaiah: That is the maximum speed contemplated at the moment.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any foreign expert's help was taken for designing this type of supersonic jet?

Shri Raghuramaiah: A team of German experts have been employed on this.

Shri Nath Pai: Is it a fact that pending the completion of the development of this plane, Government are contemplating purchasing jet aircraft from the Soviet Union?

Mr. Speaker: That would be quite a different thing altogether.

Shri Nath Pai: May I submit that this aeroplane was to be fitted with MIG engines from the Soviet Union but now it transpires that the frames that have been manufactured at Bangalore are too light and as a result—this is a directly related matter—it is being suggested that we should purchase some planes from the Soviet Union? So, this arises out of the main question.

Shri Raghuramaiah: Sir, as you have rightly pointed out here we are dealing with the developmental work of HF 24. What other planes Government of India would require or consider purchasing, I submit, would be a separate question.

Shri Nath Pai: Then may I know...

Mr. Speaker: I will come to him again. Now Shri P. K. Deo.

Shri P. K. Deo: My question has already been covered.

Mr. Speaker: Then Shri Nath Pai.

Shri Nath Pai: Is it a fact that these very planes which we are trying to develop at Bangalore were to be fitted with Soviet MIG engines but it now transpires that MIG engines are too heavy for the frames of these planes?

Shri Raghuramaiah: These planes are to be fitted with Orpheus engines.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that after having fitted the Orpheus engines to our aircraft it was found that HF 24 cannot regularly maintain supersonic speeds and it has actually proved to be subsonic?

Shri Raghuramaiah: I have already said that it is in developmental stage.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is there any truth in the press reports to the effect that this Indian-designed supersonic jet is not likely to go into full production for another two or three years and, if so, what arrangement is the Government making for equipping our Air Force with the required type of aircraft?

Shri Raghuramaiah: Government are always conscious of the time factor involved and the steps they will take will depend on the circumstances that arise from time to time.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I could not get the last part of the answer.

Shri Raghuramaiah: The steps that Government will take will depend on the circumstances that arise from time to time.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: My question has not been fully answered. What arrangements are they making to equip our Air Force with the necessary type of aircraft until our

factory goes into full production? That is my question.

Shri Raghuramaiah: This question relates to a particular type of aircraft. If the question is what other planes the Government of India are contemplating, that would be an entirely different subject, and a very wide subject too.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Sir, on a point of order. The question relates to supersonic jets and the Minister admitted that it is a developing aircraft. My question was: so long as it does not go into full production, what arrangements are the Government making for equipping our Air Force with the necessary type of aircraft?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to enquire about the other arrangements that the Government might be making. His question is whether any other arrangements are being made until this is developed. The hon. Minister says, and I agree with him in this respect, that the particular question here is the progress of the development made so far, as far as this factory and this particular prototype are concerned. Next question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is not irrelevant at all. It is a collateral question.

Mr. Speaker: I have held it is a different question. I am sorry. Next question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: We are helpless in your hands.

Mr. Speaker: That is the only trouble.

Confirmation of Civilian Defence Employees

*694. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that orders for 80 per cent permanency in respect of civilian non-industrial and indus-

trial employees in Defence have not yet been actually implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons for this delay;

(c) the steps taken by Government in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah):

(a) to (c). The orders regarding 80 per cent permanency in respect of civilian non-industrial and industrial employees are being implemented by the Defence Establishments. The decisions in these cases have to be taken in consultation with the Finance & Audit authorities concerned.

Instructions have been issued for expediting the complete implementation of these orders.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether Government have been able to take a decision regarding implementing these orders for 80 per cent permanency to industrial and non-industrial civilian employees in the case of civilian employees in the Air Force also who are working in lieu of Airmen?

Shri Raghuramaiah: The existing orders do not cover units and establishments raised after 1956, like, the Headquarters Maintenance Command, IAF, and the expansion caused due to the recent re-organisation of the Corps of EME Field Units and posts sanctioned for specific projects.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether these orders are being implemented in all those establishments which were in existence before 1956?

Shri Raghuramaiah: They cover specifically Ordnance Depots in the AOC, EME Workshops in the Corps of EME, Ordnance Factories, TDEs, Engineer Stores Depots and Engineer Works in the MES, IN Dockyard in the Navy, BRDs in the Air Force and similar other industrial establishments which employ a bulk of civilian employees both industrial and non-industrial.