

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not quite follow the question. Farmers' co-operatives are of various types. If there is a co-operative society which can be entrusted with this task we will be glad to do it, but in all probability the existing co-operatives will not be affected unless they are service co-operative for farming.

Private Air Companies

*301. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the names of private aviation companies or firms who have been recognised as 'Associates' of the Indian Airlines Corporation and allowed to run freighter and passenger services on scheduled Indian Airlines Corporation routes and also on non-Scheduled routes; and

(b) whether it is proposed to extend the system of 'Indian Airlines Corporation Associates' and hand over new routes to them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) No such recognition has been given to any private aviation company or firm. Shri B. Patnaik has, however, been appointed as an associate of the Indian Airlines Corporation to operate the internal air services in Nepal.

(b) No, Sir.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if there was any meeting of the hon. Minister with private operators where he suggested to them that they should enrol themselves as Indian Airline Associates?

Shri Humayun Kabir: People come to me from time to time. I think what I stated in the Parliament during the discussion on the Budget was that for areas which are not on the scheduled service of either of the Corporations, and where there is no immediate likelihood of either of the Corporations operating, we would like them to be opened by private parties if they are available.

Shri Biren Roy: May I know the reasons for taking in somebody to run the service in Nepal as an associate of the I.A.C.?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The reasons were two-fold, partly internal to Nepal and partly operational difficulties. The Nepal Government has been thinking for some time of starting a Nepal Air of its own. When Nepal Air starts operating I.A.C. would not be able to operate in Nepal. It was, therefore, felt that it would be better to withdraw from that field before Nepal Air was formed. The second and the decisive reason was that most of the aerodromes in Nepal are, what may be called, sub-standard. There are certain operational difficulties, as pilots do not want to work there except on a voluntary basis. It was felt that a national Corporation could not work a line in another country on a purely voluntary basis of pilots.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that Indian Airlines aircraft have been lent to Kalinga Airlines who are acting as associates in Nepal, and may I know whether these planes are operated by their pilots or our pilots?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Two aircraft have been hired to Mr. Patnaik for working within Nepal. They have to be operated by registered Indian air crew under the rules of the D.G.C.A., and Indian Airlines Corporation have said that they would be willing to lend the services of some of their pilots in consideration for adequate returns.

Rope-way between Shella Bazar and Amingaon

*302. **Shrimati Masda Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the scheme, submitted by the Government of Assam for the construction of a rope-way between Shella Bazar and Amingaon; and

(b) if so, when the work will start?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 18.]

Shri Basumatari: What is the amount involved in the scheme?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The exact amount involved will be known after the survey as proposed by the Planning Commission will be carried out, but the preliminary estimate, which is a rough estimate made by the Czechoslovakian expert, is Rs. 124 lakhs for the portion between Shella to Shillong and the total cost of the entire project is estimated at Rs. 268 lakhs.

Shri Hem Barua: From the statement it appears that the consolidated programme submitted by the Government of Assam for a ropeway between Shella and Amingaon has been broken up into two parts, and the Government is going to give effect to one part of it from Shella to Shillong and leave the rest from Shillong to Amingaon to a future date. May I know what are the reasons for breaking up the consolidated plan submitted by the Government of Assam for this ropeway?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The primary objective that the Planning Commission had in view was that the ropeway should have enough traffic and load to carry. Therefore, it has been broken into two parts. The first part between Shella and Shillong alone will be tried in the first phase and if it is found to be successful, the second phase will then be taken up.

**Short Notice Question and Answer
Flood in Andhra**

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S.N.Q. No. 2.	{	Shri Anjanappa:
		Shri M. V. Krishna Rao:
		Shri B. S. Murthy:
		Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were heavy rains during the first week of November,

1957 in Andhra Pradesh resulting in the loss of life and property;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to afford relief to the victims of floods in Andhra Pradesh?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). In the two affected districts of Nellore and Chittoor 66 persons are reported to have lost their lives. Over 1,900 heads of cattle and about 2,000 sheep were also lost; 8,217 houses collapsed or suffered damage; food grains worth Rs. 1,30,400 perished. Crops over 4,000 acres of land were damaged and 2,000 acres of land have been silted with sand. 276 irrigation works, 103 tanks and 3 irrigation canals were breached.

Relief operations have been undertaken by the State Government and, according to the procedure laid down for dealing with such calamities, expenses on specified items will be shared by the Central Government in the prescribed proportions. The immediate assistance which the Government of Andhra Pradesh have so far specifically asked for is in respect of certain medicinal and dietary articles. Arrangements have been made for the despatch of 1 lakh pounds of skimmed milk and 1 lakh sulphaguanadine tablets. A sum of Rs. 30,000 has been sanctioned from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

A full statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 19.]

The statement gives the full details and covers about four pages. I do not think you will like me to read it out.

Shri Anjanappa: As per the statement 75 major and 201 minor irrigation sources and also 7 tanks and 3 canals in Nellore District and 96 irrigation tanks in Chittoor District were breached due to heavy rains in the month of November. In view of the