

are sometimes chartered to these companies for running freighter and non-scheduled passenger services?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) A statement giving the names of private air transport undertakings registered in India is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 22].

(b) Private air companies are not permitted to operate flights on the scheduled routes of the Indian Airlines Corporation except in cases where they obtain a 'No objection' certificate from the Corporation. On routes not served by the scheduled services, they are generally permitted to operate without any restrictions.

(c) No, Sir.

Joint Committees of Workers and Officials

***320. Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the introduction of Joint Committees of workers and officials at various levels on Railways are contemplated on the basis suggested by the Minister in his recent budget speech;

(b) if so, when they will be introduced;

(c) whether a scheme has already been drawn up to this effect; and

(d) if so, the outlines thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d). The details are being worked out and it is hoped to introduce the scheme shortly.

Import of Rice

***321. Shri Kadiyan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total stock of rice now in the possession of the Central Government;

(b) whether Government is considering to increase the import of rice this year; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) 2.31 lakh tons.

(b) and (c). The matter is under examination.

Air Services to Kulu

***322. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the air services to Kulu has been stopped; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) No air service has ever operated to Kulu.

(b) The question does not arise.

Bifurcation Scheme of North-Eastern Railway

***323. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the details of the bifurcation scheme of the North-Eastern Railway has been settled;

(b) if so, what are they; and

(c) whether the name of the bifurcated Railway has been finally decided?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The new zone with Headquarters at Pandu would, to begin with, function only with the jurisdiction of the present Pandu Region. The question of Katihar-Barauni Section with connected Branch Lines will be considered later after completion of