

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS

Railway Booking Clerks

*1101. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the duty hours of Railway Booking Clerks at some of the stations on Western Railway are divided in two shifts of four hours each;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the hardship caused to the employees on account of the break in their duty hours; and

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to have their duty hours fixed only in one shift?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) There is no hardship.

(c) No.

International Air Transport Association

*1102. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines Corporation has been admitted as an active member of the International Air Transport Association; and

(b) the main functions and obligations arising out of the membership of this organisation?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The obligations of the membership of the International Air Transport Association are that the Indian Airlines Corporation will have to observe the rules, regulations, practices and the procedures of the World Organization in respect of their international operations. The settlement of accounts of the Indian Airlines Corporation will be effected through

the International Air Transport Association Clearing House, London, thereby replacing the present system of settling accounts individually with a large number of airline operators. The I.A.C. have also to pay the cost of membership of the Association.

Cattle Disease in Manipur

*1109. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether rinder pest has attacked cattle in Manipur in an epidemic form; and

(b) if so, what is the number of cattle affected and the number which have died of this disease?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Fire in Mines in Asansol Area

*1110. { **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**
Shri Bose:
Shrimati Krishna Mehta:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that extensive and uncontrolled fire in the abandoned mines near Joti-mutuk siding in Asansol area has endangered the above siding, which provides the only out-let of the production of 12 Collieries and Aluminium Corporation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a diversion has been suggested, the cost of which the siding owners have agreed to pay; and

(c) if so, why there is delay in making the diversion, when closure of the present siding will spell unemployment to about 25000 persons and retard substantially the output of coal?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) An underground fire in an abandoned mine-working first noticed by the