

Aviation stated in Madras that a separate route will be started for Madras-Madurai. May I know when that is likely to start?

Shri S. K. Patil: I do not know about Madras-Madurai. But we are thinking of changing the pattern, and it may possibly result in having two more routes. So far as this particular route is concerned, I have no information.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether, as a result of the recent increase in air fares, there has been an increase or a decrease in the number of passengers?

Shri S. K. Patil: It is too early to say in a few weeks' time, but the figures that I know of indicate that the revenue will slightly increase.

Shri Basumatari: What is the reason for the cancellation of the air service from Gauhati to Silchar?

Shri S. K. Patil: It is not part of this question, it is a different question.

Shri M. S. Murty: May I know whether there is any proposal to have a route from Vizag to Hyderabad?

Mr. Speaker: Can they exhaust all the routes in a general question? The hon. Minister may give one day the scheme as a whole and where the routes are likely to be changed.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In what way will this revision or expansion or extension of the routes affect the non-scheduled operators? Will it improve their position or will it in any way invade them?

Shri S. K. Patil: It has nothing to do with the non-scheduled operators. Their position will remain just the same.

Shri Joachim Alva: May I know whether the Lall Committee which made recommendations on the structure of rates had much to do with the raising of the rates?

Shri S. K. Patil: No, it has'nt, but generally it is always the intention of the Aviation Department to see that these services are run economically, and therefore constant revisions.

Shri Biren Roy: Jodhpur previously was on the route between Delhi and Karachi as well as on the route Delhi-Jaipur-Jodhpur-Bombay. Will the hon. Minister now include Jodhpur to be on the new revised schedule?

Shri S. K. Patil: That is still under consideration, but I can tell the House—because there seems to be an anxiety—there are two things that will be done. One is, the services to be run economically. That would be one pattern of it. And the other is when the services have got to be run, although they may not be economically run. It is another pattern. And when it is to be devised, I would take the House into consideration.

Shri Dasappa: May I know whether any suggestions have been called from the public, the State Governments, Chambers of Commerce, etc.?

Shri S. K. Patil: That is a very very difficult position. If you go on asking for suggestions from everybody, it will take months and years before any pattern is changed.

Shri Tangamani: When this route pattern is revised, may I know whether the fares also are likely to be revised?

Shri S. K. Patil: It is our intention not to increase the fares—unless we are pushed to do so. And surely there is no idea of increasing the fare because of the change in the route pattern.

Food Production Targets

{ Shri Kodiyan:
'442. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
{ Sardar Iqbal Singh:
{ Shri Ram Krishan:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target fixed for additional food production over the

first two years of the Second Plan period as a result of the improved facilities and practices in agriculture;

(b) whether there has been any shortfall in the actual achievement of this target;

(c) if so, to what extent; and

(d) the reasons for the shortfall?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 127].

Shri Kadiyan: From the statement it is seen that the targets fixed for the first two years of the Second Five Year Plan for additional food production have not been achieved fully. In view of this fact may I know what additional steps Government propose to take to see that at least the targets fixed for the remaining period of the Plan are achieved?

Mr. Speaker: We had a Food Debate for two days. Whatever he has not been able to satisfy the hon. Member and hon. Members of this House in spite of that—and each time the hon. Minister took an hour and a half to explain these matters—is he going to answer in a minute? I have no objection. In fact, I must have disallowed it after the Food Debate.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The Government of India have examined in detail the causes for the shortfall in the achievement of the target. We have recently held a Conference of the States in the Southern and Eastern Regions and are also proposing to have one more Conference for the Central and Northern Regions. And the Regional Minor Irrigation Conferences have impressed on the State Governments the need for full utilisation of the irrigation potential already created and also giving top priority for the existing irrigation works. With regard to the shortfall in the matter of setting up of the seed farms, there is

another question—that is No. 476—and so I am not answering it separately in this regard. Everything possible is being done to achieve the targets.

Shri S. C. Gupta: It is stated in the statement that one of the reasons for the shortfall is the reorganisation of States. May I know whether those States which have not been affected, or which have been slightly affected, by the reorganisation had all lived up to the targets; and, if not, how many have lived up to the targets?

Shri A. M. Thomas: They have shown a better performance than the other States which have been affected materially by the reorganisation.

Shri S. C. Gupta: Have they fulfilled the targets?

Shri A. M. Thomas: although they have not completely fulfilled the targets.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Minister stated just now that Conferences were recently held in the Southern and Eastern Zone and the need for the full utilisation of the irrigation potential was impressed upon the State Governments. May I know how long the Government will take to impress this need only, and whether they are in a position to state confidently that the full irrigation potential will be utilised, and in how many months?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There has been the question of water cess, which has been taken up with various State Governments. As the honourable House is aware, the Bihar State Government have reacted favourably, and it has reduced the cess to a considerable extent. Other State Governments are also taking the necessary steps, and we hope there will be full utilisation of the resources.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the shortfall in the targets for these two years will be made good in 1958-59?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It may not be possible, Sir.

Shri Tyagi: May I know on what basis these targets were fixed, whether they were fixed in consultation with the State Governments, and if so, which State has failed most in fulfilling these targets?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is not possible now to state seriatim the performance of each State. But the targets were fixed in consultation with the State Governments.

Shri Banga: Is it a fact that the Andhra Government has sent certain proposals, not once but repeatedly, in order to enable them to bring more and more of the land which is supposed to be brought under irrigation *ayacut* under the K.C canal at Tungabhadra?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In fact, the hon. Member knows that the Andhra Government's demands have been mostly met, and the further demands on account of minor irrigation are being considered. We are also taking up the matter with the Planning Commission.

Shrimati Manjula Devi: What is the total increase in production in Assam?

Shri A. M. Thomas: According to the final estimate, the total area is 4,207,000 acres. The production of rice is 1,586,000 tons in 1957-58, and in 1956-57 it was 1,707,000 tons.

Shri S. C. Gupta: May I know whether West Bengal has fulfilled her target; or, if not, to what extent she has fallen short of her targets?

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to West Bengal, the total rice production, according to the final estimate, has been 4 million tons in 1957-58; and in 1956-57 it was 4 million and 573 thousand tons.

Purchase of American Liberty Ships

*443. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply

given to Starred Question No. 1658 on the 26th April, 1958 and state the further progress so far made in negotiations in connection with the purchase of American Liberty Ships?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): No further progress has been made so far in the negotiations in connection with the purchase of American Mothball Liberty Ships. It may be mentioned that the free market price of Liberty Ships is at the moment so low that there is now no special advantage in going in for the Mothball ships unless they are released to us at a still lower price and on credit or instalment basis.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I take it that there will be no further negotiations for the purchase of these ships because they are not going to be economical?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already indicated in the reply that it depends on the terms that we finally get in regard to this particular transaction. As I said, if we find that they are economically good for us to procure and the condition that they should be only plied on coastal shipping is waived or settled favourably to us, we may consider it.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Through what agency are the negotiations for the purchase of these ships being conducted?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have got our Embassy in the United States. At the moment, the initiative lies with the Government of the U.S.A. to promote the necessary legislation for this purpose. We are awaiting that. The free market prices, as I said, have gone down to Rs. 20 lakhs and if we go to the free market, the condition that we shall have to ply them only on the coastal shipping will also be obviated.

Shri Barman: Apart from the consideration of the price, is it not a fact that considering the slow speed of these Liberty ships, they have become absolutely obsolete in the commercial world?