

**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?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It is a question of comparative and relative merit of two ships. This is an old ship which had so far stood the test of time. But keeping in view the technological developments in the art of ship-building, ships are built with higher speeds and better efficiency; compared to them, these ships are not as good a proposition.

**Shri Tangamani:** In view of the fact that these Liberty ships are not only slow-moving but out-of-date and no private-owners are going in for them, will Government consider giving up the purchase of these ships?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I do not think they have completely gone out of date because they are yet plying on waters. But it is true that the market is no more a seller's market for them the buyers have ample choice now.

**Shrimati Manjula Devi:** May I know whether Government have any idea of purchasing ships from Japan which is quoting low prices?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We are now considering the question of Liberty ships here. Of course, we have got a yen credit to the extent of 5 billion and we are trying to have some ships against that credit.

#### Training of Civil Pilots

\*444. **Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 727 on the 7th March, 1958 and state:

(a) how many recommendations of the Committee on the selection, training and licensing of air pilots have been implemented so far; and

(b) whether Government are taking advantage of the offer of the Indian Air Force for training Civil Pilots?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) and (b). I lay on the Table of the Sabha a statement giving the requisite information. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 128.]

**Shri Biren Roy:** In view of the fact that flying training in most of the Flying Clubs has practically gone down in the whole of India because of the lack of planes as well as of the standard of our pilot instructors which were discussed in this Committee, what steps have now been taken to upgrade the standard of instructors in India, considering the fact that instrumentation in flying today has become very much complicated?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** This is quite a different subject that the hon. Member has introduced. But so far as the Committee are concerned, in what proportion we have our pilots from the Air Force and from our civil flying, that is under consideration. On the other question, I can assure the House that we shall do everything in our power to see that instruction is stepped up

**Shri Biren Roy:** In view of the fact that previously pilots were selected from a batch which was selected by Air India International, Airlines Corporation and representatives of D.G.C.A., notwithstanding that previously selections were on the basis of aptitude for flying which was recommended by all the Flying Clubs, will he come back to the criterion of flying aptitude for selection of pilots in future?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** All that is under consideration and until Government take a final decision as regards the recommendations of the Committee, it is premature on my part to give an answer.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Committee has recommended the establishment of a Flying Training School at a suitable location other than Allahabad to be jointly financed by the Air Corporations and Government? If so, what steps have Government so far taken towards implementation of that recommendation?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** I cannot say at this stage what the Committee's recommendations exactly are. But if it is