

tral Government are concerned have been implemented and steps are already being taken to implement the remaining recommendations.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** May I know the important recommendations that concern the Central Government?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I shall lay it on the Table, because it will be a long statement. But if so desired....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The statement would be laid on the Table of the House.

**Shri Assar:** Has the committee recommended the linking up of all the rivers from north to south in the country by canals so as to increase waterways, and if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Such recommendations have been received from time to time, but I do not know whether this particular committee has made such a recommendation; I do not think it has. I think, in the present circumstances, particularly in view of financial difficulties, we shall not be able to link up the northern rivers with the southern rivers.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether these recommendations were scrutinised by the Central Government, and special references were made to the State Governments?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Yes, that is a fact.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** The hon. Minister has stated that some of the recommendations concern the State Governments. May I know whether Government have any information as to whether the States have implemented all the recommendations?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The implementation of the recommendations has, of course, been recommended to the State Governments, and we are trying to follow up these recommendations with them.

**Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:** Is it a fact that one of the recommendations of this Committee is that the Buckingham Canal should not be improved and only a test should be conducted?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I think the hon. Member is confusing this Committee which is the Road and Inland Water Transport Advisory Committee with the Inland Water Transport Committee.

### Replacement of Dakota Aircrafts of Indian Airlines Corporation

+

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:  
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:  
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:  
Shri Punnoose:  
\*339. { Shri Sarju Pandey:  
Shri Raghunath Singh:  
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:  
Shri A. K. Gopalan:  
Shri Tangamani:  
Shri Dinesh Singh:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to replace the Dakota aircrafts of the Indian Airlines Corporation;

(b) if so, the details of the aircrafts proposed to be purchased this year;

(c) whether there would be global tenders for this purpose;

(d) whether any negotiations have been conducted with Lockheed Corporation of U.S.A.; and

(e) if so, the result thereof?

**The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin):** (a) and (b). No decision has yet been taken regarding the type of aircraft to replace the Indian Airlines Corporation's Dakotas. The Indian Airlines Corporation have, to meet their interim requirements, submitted a proposal for the purchase of five Fokker Friendship aircraft during the Second Plan period. This proposal is under consideration.

(c) No, Sir. The aircraft selected will be purchased from the manufacturers concerned and the question of inviting global tenders does not arise.

(d) and (e). The Lockheed Aircraft Corporation have offered to submit detailed proposals for a civil aircraft as a possible Dakota replacement, which are awaited.

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** What is the total expenditure that would be incurred in the replacement under the scheme contemplated?

**Shri Mohiuddin:** It is too premature at this stage to lay down any figures, because the whole scheme is under consideration.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know whether the technical examination of the proposed purchase of the Fokker Friendship planes will be done from all aspects in view of our experience with the Heron aircraft which we purchased some years ago?

**Shri Mohiuddin:** The Technical Committee have examined the various aircrafts that are available and they have thoroughly tested the various aspects of it and it is found that it is very satisfactory aeroplane.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Is it a fact that a Dutch firm have offered their collaboration for the manufacture of Fokker Friendship aircraft in India under licence? If so, what is the reaction of Government to this proposal so far?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** The Fokker Friendship people have also offered their collaboration so far as manufacture is concerned. But just now, as regards the five planes, to which my hon. colleague made a reference, the question is not one of manufacture. The question is just to buy them immediately for some of our immediate needs in Assam and other places where the 'planes are expected to fly over turbulent climate. Therefore, the two questions are separate.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Which are the countries from which enquiries have been made as to the availability of suitable aircraft for replacement of Dakotas? In particular, have enquiries been made from the Soviet Union and other East European countries to see whether suitable aircraft could be available at reasonable prices?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Once again, I would say that the question before us just now is not relating to the replacement of Dakotas. That is a larger question. The planes have to be manufactured in this country. Here the question is as to how in the interim period, to which reference has been made, a few 'planes that we need immediately could be bought. Fokker Friendship is the only plane just now available anywhere, of the medium size with the speed and other requirements. Therefore, there is no comparison. This plane is being used today by 12 countries within a couple of years of its manufacture.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** Apart from our interim requirements, may I know from the hon. Minister whether at any stage he came across the Lockheed project? If the answer is in the affirmative, is his mind open in contradistinction to what the hon. Defence Minister told us only the other day?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** I do not know what exactly the Defence Minister said. Just now the question here is about civil aviation. But so far as the Lockheeds are concerned, we are very much earnest about it. The Lockheeds are preparing a design for us and if it proves satisfactory in various respects and so on—it is a matter for the future—then it will be time for us to consider whether we should accept that proposition for manufacturing Lockheeds here.

**Shri P. G. Deb:** May I know whether the hon. Minister will hold an inquiry into various allegations and rumours to the effect that Rs. 5 lakh commission has been paid to an ex-Indian Army officer in this deal?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** In replacement of Dakotas?

**Shri P. G. Deb:** In this transaction.

**Shri S. K. Patil:** I have never heard of any such thing. The transaction has not even taken place.

**Shri Mohammed Inam:** These Dakotas were acquired long ago and they must have become old enough. Have Government any proposal to replace them immediately in the interest of safety? If so, when are they going to replace them?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** They have a long life.

The House should know that there are about 2,000 Dakotas in service just now in various countries of the world. We have only 58 of them. So their life still remains and the replacement question will arise as and when they become obsolete. We can fly our Dakotas for four or five years more.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** May I know whether when the decision to purchase this type of aircraft in the interim period was taken, enquiries were made whether similar types of aircraft were available for the same purpose, and if so, the comparative merits of that aircraft taken into consideration before the decision was taken to purchase this aircraft?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** So far as the medium size aircraft—pressurized type and all that—is concerned, I do not think there is any other available. This is the only one and the best one anybody could buy.

**Shri Tangamani:** The hon. Minister said in some other connection that this Dutch Fokker Friendship plane was the younger sister of the Viscount. May I know whether orders have been placed, and if so, when do we expect these five planes to be delivered to us?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** No, Sir. My hon. colleague has replied that the question is under consideration. The request of the Indian Airlines Corporation is that they should have five aircraft.

Surely we do not know how many could be delivered and when they could be delivered. The question is under consideration.

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** Since the replacement of Dakotas is important from the point of view of Defence as well as that of Civil Aviation, may I know whether an expert joint committee has gone into this question? If so, will the Minister kindly place the report of that joint committee on the Table of the House?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** I do not remember any expert joint committee having been set up for that. But so far as Defence is concerned, Government have taken a decision that they will go in for the Avro 748 which is under design and which will be produced. So far as we are concerned, just now we are waiting to see what type of plane Avro would be and so on. That is a matter for the future. If it answers to all our requirements, surely we shall consider whether we should go in for that.

In the meanwhile, Government have also taken a decision that they will approach Fokker Friendship and also the Lockheed people to put in their designs etc. so that we could consider all of them together and find out as to what is ultimately best for our passenger needs.

Some hon. Members rose—

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I should now pass on to the next question. That is the only alternative.

**Shri Hem Barua:** This is a very important question.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Therefore, it cannot be settled here during Question Hour.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** This is an important question. Some more supplementaries should be allowed.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is why I have decided that it should be discussed in some other way.