

Shri Mohiuddin: According to present arrangements, AII services operate twice weekly via Zurich and twice weekly via Geneva.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस रूट से इस वक्त फायदा हो रहा है या नहीं ?

श्री मुहोउद्दीन : यह कहना तो मुश्किल है कि ज्यूरिच की रूट से फायदा हो रहा है । वहाँ मुसाफिर मिलते हैं इसलिये वहाँ जाते हैं । लेकिन आनरेबल मेम्बर वाकिफ हैं कि एयर इंडिया इन्टरनेशनल की सालाना रिपोर्ट में आम तौर पर से फायदा ही होता है ।

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is there any desire on the part of the Ministry to put new types of aircraft on this route? If so, what is the nature of those aircraft?

Shri Mohiuddin: It is too early to say yet, because the first Boeing has arrived only day before yesterday. It will take sometime, a month or so, before the final programme is drawn up.

Replacement of Dakotas

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- Pandit D. N. Tiwari:
 - Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
 - Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
 - Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
 - Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
 - Shri P. K. Deo:
 - *308. { Shri Raghunath Singh:
 - Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
 - Shri S. A. Mehdi:
 - Shri D. C. Sharma:
 - Shri Lilladhar Kotokl:
 - Shri P. C. Borooah:
 - Shri Amjad Ali:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 659 on the 8th December, 1959 regarding replacement of Dakotas by the I. A. C. and state:

(a) the progress made in the negotiation of the barter deal under which

the foreign exchange involved in the purchase of 5 Fokker Friendship aircraft, is expected to be met;

(b) whether Government's examination of the proposal of Lock-heed Air-Craft Corporation for manufacture and production in India of a new aeroplane to replace the Dakotas has been completed; and

(c) if so, the nature of decision taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) The negotiation has been completed and the Indian Airlines Corporation have concluded a purchase contract with the Fokker Air-craft Co. on 22-1--1960 for the purchase of five Fokker Friendship Aircraft.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: May I know whether the deal completed involves any foreign exchange? If so, what is the amount?

Shri Mohiuddin: The agreement that has been completed is based on a barter deal. The sellers will purchase sufficient export commodities from India to make up for the price.

Shri P. K. Deo: Sometime back there was an agreement with the Hawker Siddeley Group for the replacement of Dakotas belonging to the IAF. They have made sufficient progress in regard to the manufacture of the aircraft in this country. So I would like to know why a fresh agreement is being signed now to replace the same kind of aircraft belonging to the Indian Airlines Corporation by supply from a different company, that is, Fokker Friendship of Holland.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): As I explained when a half-hour discussion was held, I put it to the Defence Minister that as our necessities are very urgent, I should be allowed to purchase aircraft abroad before this new plane comes into being. Under

that agreement, we are now purchasing Fokker Friendship aircraft because we want them urgently for our internal air services.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know in what sector these Fokker Friendship aircraft are going to be used?

Shri Mohiuddin: The present proposal is that they will mostly be used on the eastern sector, that is, in the Assam and other lines.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Apart from the five aircrafts purchased, have Government plans to purchase more? Also, what is the price of each Fokker Friendship aircraft?

Shri Mohiuddin: The price of the five Fokker Friendship aircraft project comes to about Rs. 235 lakhs. At the present moment, we have not got under active consideration the question of purchasing any more aircraft.

Shri P. K. Deo: Part (b) of the question has not been replied to. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry to the fact that sometime back, a reply was given to the effect that the report of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation in regard to the American type of aircraft was received and was under consideration, and so the negotiation could not be completed. May I know at what stage the negotiations with the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation of America are now?

Shri Mohiuddin: The proposal is under consideration.

Shri Damani: The hon. Minister has said that under the barter deal they will purchase some commodities from our country? May I know the names of the commodities they are going to purchase?

Shri Mohiuddin: I am afraid I cannot give all those details.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: May I know whether Lockheeds will supply designs only or they will manufacture the aircraft?

Shri Mohiuddin: They will be manufactured, if the proposal is accepted and finally approved, with their collaboration in India.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: In reply to the earlier question, No. 659, the Minister was pleased to say:

"The Lockheed Aircraft Corporation have since submitted their proposal for the manufacture and production in India of a new aeroplane to replace Dakotas. This is under examination."

May I know how long it will take to examine the whole question, and when production will commence?

Shri Mohiuddin: I am afraid that is a question which cannot be answered positively.

Shri Joachim Alva: We receive aid from both the sides. We buy military planes from France and Britain and civil aircraft from America. I want to know why we have not entertained the idea of buying planes from the other side, Ilyushin or other planes. Have we at least made enquiries in this regard? The parts can be easily flow from the neighbouring country, USSR.

Shri Mohiuddin: So far as the last one or two years were concerned, there was no such proposal for purchasing Ilyushin or any other aircraft.

Shri P. C. Borooah: What is the carrying capacity of the Fokker Friendship aircraft, and is it pressurised?

Shri Mohiuddin: The carrying capacity is about 40 passengers.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Fokker Friendship aircraft was put to any tests to see whether it would suit our conditions, the weather and also Indian passengers?

Shri Mohiuddin: It is a very well-tried aircraft. It is in use in many countries. As far as I remember, over 40 aircraft are actually in use. Our General Manager visited the country

where they are in use and he is very much satisfied with them.

Mr. Speaker: The question was whether they would suit our climatic conditions.

Shri Mohiuddin: We have also had trial flights here, and they are suitable for Indian conditions.

Shifting of P. & T. Headquarters from Cuttack to Bhubneswar

*310. **Shri P. K. Deo:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office of the Director of Post and Telegraph, Orissa is proposed to be shifted from Cuttack to Bhubneswar, the New Capital; and

(b) if so, whether the construction of offices and staff quarters at Bhubneswar has been completed?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) and (b) The proposal is under examination. The question of construction of the buildings will be considered in the light of the decision reached.

Shri P. K. Deo: What is the estimate for the buildings to be put up in Bhubneswar?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I have not got the exact figure. We are in correspondence with the Orissa Government over this, because they have promised to meet part of the expenditure.

Shri P. K. Deo: When will these buildings be completed?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: It is difficult to say, but we are trying to have them completed as quickly as possible once an agreement is arrived at with the Orissa Government.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether there is any proposal to elevate the status of the Director to the status of the Postmaster-General in Orissa?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: No, Sir.

Dr. M. S. Aney: May I know whether the buildings that are to be built there will be the property of the Government of India or of the State Government?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: As it is a central subject, it is the property of the Government of India.

D.V.C. Navigation Canal

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*311. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
 Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 281 on the 25th November, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the investigation into the sudden collapse of a bridge across a navigation canal near Palla Road Station, Burdwan has since been completed;

(b) if so, who has been held responsible for it;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken against the person held responsible; and

(d) the main defects found?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir. The investigation is still in progress.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know why such a small investigation is not completed?

Shri Hathi: I think it should have been completed by now. We asked the D.V.C. for the reasons. One of the reasons seems to be that the Chief Engineer was away on leave for some time.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether proper supervision was done when the construction was going on?

Shri Hathi: Yes; the normal supervision was there. But I do not know the exact position. It is the D.V.C. that is enquiring and we shall know when the report is available.