

LOK SABHA

Friday, November 18, 1960/Kartika 27,
1882 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Viscounts for I.A.C.

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*210. { Shri Tangamani:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Bahadur Singh:
Shri Inder J. Malhotra:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Morarka:

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

(a) whether I.A.C. Dakotas are likely to be replaced by Viscounts service on all the routes in India by the end of 1961;

(b) if so, number of Viscounts purchased;

(c) the countries from where purchased;

(d) the reasons for buying these Viscounts from those countries; and

(e) whether there were offers from other countries to sell Viscounts?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Indian Airlines Corporation propose to purchase 4 second-hand Viscounts to meet the increasing traffic on the trunk and some other

important routes and to replace the Skymaster aircraft.

(c) and (d). Proposals for sale of second-hand Viscounts have been received from U.S.A. and U.K. The offers are under consideration.

(e) Offers to sell second-hand Viscounts have been received from a number of parties.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether this purchase of Viscounts is by way of exchange of these Skymasters and, if that is so, whether we are not incurring a loss in view of the accommodation available in the Viscount as compared to the Skymaster?

Shri Mohiuddin: The proposal is under consideration that as a part price for the Viscounts, our old aircraft like Vikings, Herons, Skymasters and so on may also be given. That is also a proposal under consideration. As regards the capacity which the hon. Member referred to, the purchase of four Viscounts will make up for our deficiency which we feel at the present moment.

Shri Tangamani: May I know the purchase prices of these four Viscounts and how they compare with the purchase price of Viscounts if they were new ones?

Shri Mohiuddin: The proposal is under consideration, and negotiations are going on. It will not be desirable to give that information at the present moment.

Shri Tangamani: What I want to know is this. The hon. the Deputy Minister stated that four Viscounts have been purchased....

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): No, no. Under consideration.

Shri Tangamani: If they are going to purchase these old ones, what will be the price compared to the new ones?

Shri Mohiuddin: The price is under negotiation and under consideration, and I am sure we will have very favourable terms.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Which are the other countries? It is said that proposals have been received from U.S.A. and U.K. May I know whether the other countries also were approached in this connection and whether they have also offered to sell second-hand Viscounts?

Shri Mohiuddin: It is not a question of approaching any other countries. It is a question of offers. Everyone knew that we wanted them, and we have received offers from so many parties.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: The hon. the Deputy Minister said that these Viscounts are being purchased mainly to replace the Skymasters. May I know what effect the purchase of these Viscounts will have....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has said that these are being purchased to replace the Skymasters.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know what effect this purchase of Viscounts will have on the night air mail service in which Skymasters are mainly used?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I know the hon. gentleman is concerned with the night air mail service very much, because there has been a rumour that this night air mail service will pass Nagpur. I can assure him....

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): He is not so much interested in Nagpur now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whether this night air mail service would be affected in any way or not—that is the point.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: That is under consideration, and I will see that

Nagpur is also serviced with aircraft, so that passengers would not be put to any trouble.

Shri Morarka: The hon. the Deputy Minister said just now that the Viscounts which are proposed to be purchased are second-hand. May I know whether precautions are taken not to purchase those second-hand Viscounts which were discarded due to some technical and mechanical defects such as metal fatigue and other things; and, if so, what steps Government is taking to have these planes properly certified by competent authorities?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: The hon. Member knows as well as I do that we will not go and purchase something which will be scrap. We will naturally take into consideration the usefulness of the aircraft, its serviceability, etc., before we decide to purchase any.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: The hon. the Deputy Minister stated that there is an offer of purchase of the second-hand Dakotas from our country....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What he has stated he knows best. What the hon. Member wants he might ask.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: I wanted to know what was the price offered by other countries.

Shri Mohiuddin: I have already stated about price, that it is under negotiation and cannot be stated at this moment.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that there has been of late a proposal for sale to this country of a fleet of aircraft by Soviet Russia; if so, whether there have been any negotiations on this line, and if the negotiations are effected, to what purpose these new aircraft are proposed to be utilised?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is that with the intention of replacing Dakotas? The question here is whether Dakotas are to be replaced by Viscounts.

Shri Ham Barua: I am coming to that. The thing is this. The hon. the

Deputy Minister said that certain countries have made offers of sale of Viscount aircraft to this country.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If Viscount offers have been received in order that we might replace Dakotas—that is the question.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether there is a proposal from Soviet Russia for the sale of a fleet of aircraft and, if the aircraft are not Viscounts, then....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, no. Dr. Vijaya Ananda.

Dr. Vijaya Ananda: Is there any proposal to re-introduce the night air mail service to Vijayawada as it is an important runway?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That would not be relevant under this question.

Plastic Bags

*211. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the dangers of re-use of cast-off transparent plastic bags picked up by adults and/or used as play-things by children as recently published in the 'Indian Express' of 13th September, 1960 under 'Letters to the Editor' by one Shri P. C. Nanavaty of Junagadh;

(b) whether any investigation has been made in the matter;

(c) if so, the result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to warn the general public about the dangers of these bags particularly the children?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government are taking steps to warn the general public about the possible dangers of the plastic bags.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: May I know whether it is a fact that there has been investigation in the United States and it has been found to be very dangerous and they have given directives to these bag manufacturers to print some such warning on the manufactured bags; and, if so, whether the Indian Government will also do the same thing?

Shri Karmarkar: We are trying to find out what has happened in the United States. In the meantime, relying on the information available, we are issuing a general warning to all the States to see that the matter becomes known.

Haldia Port

*212. **Shri Inderjit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether land occupied by 62 villages is being acquired for development of Haldia port; and

(b) whether there is any scheme for compensation and/or resettlement of the displaced inhabitants of the villages concerned?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The Haldia Project is still in the initial stages and several technical details will have to be settled before the scheme is finalised. When the scheme is ready for execution, some land will have to be acquired strictly limited to needs. A preliminary notification under Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, has, however, been issued by the West Bengal Government indicating that land in the Haldia area is likely to be required for the development of a subsidiary port. Such a notification is issued mainly as a precautionary measure with a view to avoid speculation in land values in the area. The area notified is approximately 17.62 square miles. The number of vil-