

Union, what is the means to represent their case?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They can appear before the Tribunal.

INTEGRATION OF AIR TRANSPORT COMPANIES

*148. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what will be the total outlay which will become necessary for the proposed State Corporation merging all the existing air-line Companies in India?

(b) What is the amount of compensation to be paid?

(c) What is the amount proposed to be awarded to each Company?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). I regret I am not at present in a position to give information on these points as the basis on which compensation is to be paid to the existing air transport undertakings is still to be finally settled.

Shri Jaipal Singh: How long will it take for Government to pay compensation?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I think we will be introducing a Bill in the House by the first week of next month.

Shri Jaipal Singh: It is a question of one State Corporation or more than one State Corporation?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: A reply to this question will be covered in by the Bill itself.

SUGAR-CANE CULTIVATION

*151. **Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme of planning under consideration in connection with sugar-cane cultivation;

(b) whether Government are going to start any special scheme of irrigation in the sugar-cane areas for better yield; and

(c) whether Government propose not to encourage increase of acreage under sugar-cane cultivation in scarcity areas like the eastern districts of U.P. for the purpose of increasing the acreage of foodgrains?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). Planning Commission have recommended targets for increased production of sugarcane in various states. Sugarcane development schemes providing among other things, for adequate irrigation facilities, are in operation in all important states with a view to securing higher yields and the necessary additional production. These schemes are being financed partly by the Central Government and partly by the State Governments.

(c) No. The policy of the Government is to achieve increased yields by intensive cultivation and not by extending the area under the crop.

Shri S. N. Das: In view of the fact that target for the production of sugar fixed by the Planning Commission has already been reached, may I know whether the Planning Commission has still recommended increase in the acreage of sugar cultivation.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It has very little reference to the acreage and it is our policy to diminish the acreage and not to increase.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: On the Republic Day the President in his speech referred to increase in the production of sugar. On the 30th of January the Government Press Note stated that the production would fall. In view of this anomaly, would Government take this House into confidence regarding any steps to prevent recurrence of this kind of thing?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Although there may be lesser production as compared with last year, so far as the country is concerned, it is more than sufficient.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know whether Government is considering to ask the millowners to provide irrigation facilities to cane growers for better yield of cane and more land for grow more food campaign?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It appears to be a suggestion for action.

Shri Gopala Rao: Is it a fact that due to the reduction in sugar cane price by Rs. 12/- a ton sugar cane growers in various parts of the country have almost come to a decision to give up sugar cane cultivation?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): That is not a fact.