

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice of the question.

Shri Sanganna: May I know the area of swampy land reclaimed and converted into fishery farms, and the quantity of fish produced, from the date of implementation of this scheme?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: As I stated, the results are encouraging. But I have not the exact quantity of fish produced.

Shri Sanganna: May I know in what way the interests of traditional fishermen are safeguarded under this scheme?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not at the moment say.

Shri Barman: What was the mortality rate of carp fry in the beginning, and to what extent has it been brought down as a result of this scheme?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: An exceedingly high rate of mortality was present, and it was going up to ninety-seven per cent.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know also the extent to which it has been brought down.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not say at the moment.

INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION

*2474. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what decisions were arrived at in the meeting of the Board of the Indian Airlines Corporation held on the 14th April, 1954 regarding the abolition of the line system and integration of Air services?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The Corporation had a meeting on the 14th April 1954 at which it decided to integrate all the lines in a single step instead of evolving a regional set up first to be replaced later by a more integrated

pattern as had been planned earlier. The Corporation also decided to have a strong Central Organisation to enable the headquarters to assume direct responsibility for initiating and implementing proposals designed to secure uniformity in important matters of policy, programme and procedure.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether the question of the consecutive downward trend in passenger and freight earnings of the Corporation and the loss sustained thereby was considered, and if so, the steps being taken by the Board to check the same?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Corporation has constantly under review the trends of traffic, and takes such steps to stop the downward trend as it possibly can.

Shri Gidwani: Is it a fact that the Board also considered the question of purchasing new aircraft, and there was a difference of opinion among the members regarding the type of aircraft that should be procured?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The choice of suitable aircraft for our purposes is not an easy one, and if there has been a difference of opinion amongst the experts and amongst knowledgeable persons in the country, it is not surprising at all.

Shri Velayudhan: The hon. Minister just now stated that a strong Central Organisation to supervise the decisions arrived at at this meeting will be set up. Is it apart from the organisation now in existence?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No. The Corporation has got a strong Central Organisation of its own. There is no question of setting up any other organisation parallel to it.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether the General Manager and other senior staff have been appointed, or the posts still remain vacant?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In view of the importance of the work in the formative stages, it has been considered necessary that the chief executive head of the organisation should continue to be the Chairman himself, and as such the post of the General Manager has not been filled, and the duties are being carried on by the Chairman.

TRAINEES OF FLYING CLUBS

*2474-A. **Shri Shobha Ram:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what steps Government are taking to absorb the trainees of the flying clubs in India?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): I lay on the Table of the House, a statement giving the requisite information. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 2.] -

Shri Shobha Ram: May I know on what basis the candidates are selected for the Dakota training, and who the selecting authority is?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They are selected by the Director-General, Civil Aviation, and, of course, by the technical experts, on the basis of their suitability for flying.

Shri Shobha Ram: What is the number of such trainees, and in how many places is the training imparted?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I said about forty-five have already received the Dakota endorsement training, out of whom, fourteen have been absorbed and only thirty-one remain to be absorbed. As declared by the hon. Minister of Communications on the floor of the House during the course of the debate on the Demands for Grants, they are to be absorbed by the Indian Airlines Corporation. There are a hundred 'B' pilots, who will be absorbed as and when vacancies arise, subject to the condition that they also obtain the Dakota endorsement.

FOOD POSITION IN TRIPURA

*2476. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how is the general food situation in Tripura this year?

(b) Have Government built any food-stocks in Tripura this year?

(c) If so, what amount of paddy and rice has been stocked so far?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) The general food situation in Tripura this year is quite satisfactory.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On 10th April, 1953, the Government of Tripura had a stock of 5,400 tons of rice and 7,000 tons of paddy.

Shri Biren Dutt: Are Government aware that scarcity is prevailing there in some areas like Kailashar and Dharmanagar?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The general food situation was asked, and we have said that it is quite satisfactory. If there are some scarcity pockets there, they have got enough of stocks with them to meet the requirements of those scarcity pockets.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN PUNJAB

*2477. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have approached the Central Government for any financial assistance for the setting up of an agricultural college in that State; and

(b) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The Punjab Government have been offered a loan to the extent required but their reaction in the matter is still awaited.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether a grant was requested, but only a loan has been given?