

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?