

AIR SERVICES

*1055. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to replace the 'Viking aircraft' by 'Skymasters' on the Bombay-Calcutta service; and

(b) if so, the additional cost involved in the replacement?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The Viking aircraft which were operating on the Bombay-Calcutta service were replaced by Skymasters with effect from the 31st July 1954.

(b) The extra operating cost will be Rs. 500 per hour.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know where the Viking aircraft that we so released to which route they have been diverted?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They should have been taken on the Delhi-Karachi; Delhi-Calcutta and other routes.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know if the Dakotas that were operating on those routes will still be maintained?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Of course, they will be maintained and they are maintained.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether one of the Skymasters has been requisitioned by the Government of India for service in Indo-China and for how long has that been taken by the Government?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I cannot give the number of such flights performed but these Skymasters are open to non-scheduled flights.

LABOUR IN CEMENT INDUSTRY

*1057. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contract labour system still prevails in the cement industry;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to abolish it; and

(c) what is the wage structure in the Cement industry?

The Minister of Labour (Shri K. K. Desai): (a) Yes, to some extent; particularly in the case of quarry, loading and unloading labour.

(b) The matter was discussed at the second session of the Industrial Committee on Cement held on the 24th and 25th March 1954. An unanimous agreement was reached that contract labour should be abolished by the 30th June 1956 in the Cement industry in any occupation connected with the manufacturing process including quarry operations. The agreement required setting up of a sub-Committee to study the difficulties involved in the abolition of contract labour in the case of loading and unloading operations and to work out the piece-rate system applicable to labour employed on contract work. The sub-Committee is being set up.

(c) Standardisation Boards are being set by the States concerned to standardise the wages in the cement industry.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: By what time does Government expect to fully give effect to the recommendations of the tripartite committee regarding abolition of the contract system?

Shri K. K. Desai: As I have already stated in my answer, it is to be abolished by June 1956.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know the reasons for the delay in setting up a sub-committee because it is already five months since a decision was taken at the Industrial Committee for the cement industry?

Shri K. K. Desai: Because we have got to consult the interests concerned. Two representations were received from the employers and the employed and they are being considered.