

Government use are approximately as follows:—

- (i) Insecticides—7,500 tons.
- (ii) Fungicides—300 tons.
- (iii) Weedicides—40 tons.

(b) The basic chemicals used in the manufacture of insecticides, such as, DDT and BHC, are practically all imported. Many of them, however, imported as pure chemicals (technical grades) are formulated in India into lower strengths for field application. Most fungicides and all weedicides are also imported. Therefore, in the initial manufacture of the pesticidal chemicals and their subsequent formulation, the contribution of the Indian manufacturers may be assessed at about 10 per cent. of the total work involved.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether, in view of the importance of insecticides to agriculture, the Government have laid down any priorities for the manufacture of formulations of insecticides, especially in the case of industries sanctioned by Government, in which Messrs. Geigy & Co. of Switzerland is in collaboration with Gladstone Lyall & Co.?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid this question must be addressed to my hon. friend, the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government have laid down any standards by which the effectiveness of these insecticides, fungicides and weedicides will be gauged in India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am sure, with the growing use of these various chemicals, there will be some arrangements for judging their strength.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In view of the increasing application of insecticides, do Government contemplate or do Government have any plan by which India will become self-sufficient in the requirements of insecticides, by manufacturing them here, and if so, what is the possible date before which we can expect that India will be self-sufficient?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is also something which the Commerce and Industry Minister alone could say with any exactitude, but I might inform the hon. Member that the use of these chemicals is a new thing in India and it is growing, but I do not know how the demands will increase and how much we will be able to manufacture.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if the National Chemical Laboratory has been requested to do any work for finding out insecticides, fungicides, etc., from indigenous materials, like herbs and other things?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am sorry I cannot give any information on that.

PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFTS

*813. **Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries from where the purchases of aircrafts have been made for the two Air Corporations during 1954, so far; and

(b) the basis on which their selection was made and prices settled?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) During 1954, Air India International Corporation purchased 2 Super Constellation aircraft from the U.S.A. The Indian Airlines Corporation have not purchased any new aircraft so far in the current year.

(b) The aircraft purchased were selected as the most suitable type having regard to the character of the fleet already in operation by Air India International and to considerations of technical performance, economics of operation, traffic requirements and the need for maintaining the Corporation's competitive position *vis-a-vis* other international airlines. The basis of price was the manufacturers' world-wide standard price list.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: What arrangements have been made for spare parts which would be required in future?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is a part of the contract. As a matter of fact, the price of the aircraft is round about Rs. 91 lakhs. The total purchase that we have made comes to Rs. 304 lakhs for the two aircrafts, spares and engines etc.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether the Government have appointed a Committee to give its verdict on the question whether the Indian Airlines Corporation is to buy Viscounts or American built Convairs, and may I also know whether the Board of Directors of the Corporation decided in favour of Viscounts but the Government has rejected their decision and have appointed a Committee?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member has put in three questions in one. If she puts one question some information can be given.

Shri Raj Bahadur: The choice of an aircraft suitable for internal operation is not an easy one. It is difficult even for experts. It is a fact that tentatively the decision was taken in favour of one type. Then, doubts were expressed about that and an Expert Committee had to be re-appointed. The decision about the final choice would be taken soon.

Shri Karni Singhji: Is it a fact that initially our pilots had difficulties with the Turbe-peop Super Constellations?

Shri Raj Bahadur: With regard to the new Super Constellations, there were teething trouble. They have been overcome.

REMODELLING OF DELHI RAILWAY STATION

*814. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1086 on the 17th September, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the proposals for a major remodelling of the Delhi Station so as to cope with the heavy passenger and goods traffic are now ready; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Not yet; Sir.

(b) It is too early to indicate the full details; the main proposals, however, are:—

- (i) To extend some platforms.
- (ii) to construct a few additional platforms.
- (iii) to effect improvements to entry and exit of trains in Delhi main B.G. and M.G. Yard by suitable yard remodelling.
- (iv) to provide a sub-way; and
- (v) to provide additional accommodation in the station building to remove congestion.

Shri Dabhi: May I know when work is likely to commence and when it is likely to be completed?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I just now said, it is a bit too early to say definitely. The plans have been formulated and we hope to start as soon as possible.

MICA MINES LABOUR WELFARE FUND

*816. **Shri P. C. Bose:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the programme of the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund for the construction of quarters and hospitals for the Mica Mines workers for the year 1954-55; and

(b) the progress made so far in these respects?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). A statement giving the information in respect of hospitals is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 1.] As regards quarters, a Subsidised Housing Scheme was sanctioned in June 1953, under which a subsidy is paid at the rate of 25 per cent. of the cost subject to maximum of Rs. 350 per house, in respect of those houses for which applications were received by the 15th October, 1953 and the construction was