

Shri Gidwani: May I know what is proposed to be done with regard to the following types of accounts: conjoint accounts, public accounts, security deposits of contractors, postal certificates placed as security by contractors?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: In the agreement of July-August, 1953, the only accounts covered were the savings bank accounts and the certificates, and these officers are verifying these two accounts. As regards the conjoint accounts, public accounts, security deposit accounts of contractors and postal certificates placed as security by contractors, they belong to a different category and it was agreed in the July-August meeting that these accounts may be taken up separately by the Finance Ministries of the two countries.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether the matter will be taken up at the proposed officers conference which is going to be held shortly?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am afraid these accounts will not be taken up by the officers who have been posted at Karachi and Lahore.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether the accounts lying in East Pakistan will be taken up separately?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Necessary steps will be taken in regard to those accounts also.

Sardar Hukam Singh: In view of the fact that the Rehabilitation Minister, as I learn from the newspapers, has expressed his intention to go to Karachi to meet his counterpart, will the Communications Ministry direct him or give him this guidance that these accounts also should be gone into when he is having those discussions there?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Of course.

TREATMENT OF RHEUMATISM

***1572. Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether any report has been received by Government on the results of research undertaken by the College of Indigenous Medicine, Madras for treatment of rheumatism;

(b) if so, whether a copy thereof will be placed on the Table of the House; and

(c) if not, when Government expect to receive the report?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) to (c). A copy of the report has been received on request from the Government of Madras and is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 38].

Dr. Rama Rao: The statement shows that a process of extracting Rasna (Alpina) has been evolved. May I know if this active principle, apart from the drug, has been tried out, and if it has been tried out, how does it compare especially with drugs like Saliaglates and the recent very costly drug Cortisone?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am afraid I could not give a reply to that at the moment, because I do not think it has been tried out yet.

FEEDER AIR-SERVICES

***1573. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce feeder services to air-link important Indian towns, lacking air travel facilities;

(b) what will be the estimated expenditure for introducing this scheme;

(c) how many aircrafts for feeder services have been ordered so far; and

(d) when they are expected to arrive?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) to (c). The present net-work of the Indian Airlines Corporation meets broadly the demands for air transport so far as the main centres of the country are concerned. The Corporation are constantly examining the possibilities extending the net-work to other centres by operating feeder services, having due regard to the economics of such operations. As a part of the implementation of this policy eight new type of aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs. 74.25 lakhs (including cost of spare parts etc.) have been ordered and on their delivery in India, operations over several feeder services will commence.

(d) Early in 1955.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know the type of aircraft for which orders have been made, and the price per aircraft? The hon. Minister just stated some lakhs of rupees. May I know whether that is the price of one aircraft or all the aircrafts?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am afraid the hon. Member was not carefully listening to the reply I have given. I have given the amount required for eight aircraft. The type of the aircraft is Heron, and the price per aircraft is Rs. 7 lakhs. The amount which I have quoted includes spare parts also.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether Government are aware that these types of aircraft for which orders have been placed are used in other countries in the world?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think they are used.

श्री सिंहासन सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि गोरखपुर से होकर हवाई जहाज बनारस को हफ्ते में दो दफा जाते हैं क्या सरकार मनुसिब नहीं समझती कि उसको रोजाना कर दिया जावे ?

श्री जगजीवन राम: यह सवाल पैदा तो नहीं होता है लेकिन अगर सरकार यह देखेगी कि वहाँ

यात्रियों की और असबाब और माल की तादाद काफी है तो इस सर्विस को रोजाना किया जा सकता है ।

Shri Barman: May I know whether the hon. Minister is thinking about opening any feeder service, so that Darjeeling may be directly connected with Delhi.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That may be considered. Even at present, there is no difficulty in one's travelling to Delhi from Darjeeling. The hon. Member's suggestion will be taken into consideration.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know whether Government have taken any decision as to the particular feeder lines that they will take in hand, after these aircrafts arrive?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have tentatively decided on some feeder routes, but as I have said, the Corporation is constantly reviewing the position, and as and when it finds that it is necessary to open some new routes, they will be opened.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: I only wanted to know whether the hon. Minister is in a position to state the names of those feeder routes.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am in a position to state some of the names.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have already allowed three or four minutes for this question, and if I go on allowing so much of time for each question....

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: This is my question, and I would like to ask another supplementary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I only want questions should be put to elicit information. How many feeder lines are there? Can he say that?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am prepared to answer any supplementary. It is for you to allow them. We have decided to operate four at present.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister may read them out.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We propose to operate these lines from the 1st of next year, even before the new aircraft arrive, with Dakota aircraft; and when the new aircraft arrive, we shall operate those aircraft on these lines. These routes are:

- (i) Delhi-Agra-Gwalior-Bhopal-Indore-Aurangabad-Bombay;
- (ii) Madras-Tiruchirapalli-Madura-Trivandrum - Cochin - Coimbatore-Bangalore-Madras.
- (iii) Delhi - Bikaner - Jodhpur-Ahmedabad-Rajkot; and
- (iv) Madras-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Cochin-Trivandrum-Madura-Tiruchirapalli-Madras.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know the names of the countries in which this particular aircraft is operating?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have not got that information.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I know how many district centres are not connected by air services, and whether there is a plan to connect in the first instance, all the district headquarters

Shri Jaipal Singh: Arising out of the answer given by the hon. Minister, may I ask.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. We have spent a lot of time over this question already. Each question cannot be made the subject-matter of a discussion. If hon. Members want—I am afraid tomorrow, we are concluding this Session—there are provisions for raising half an hour discussions, one hour discussions, one and half an hour discussions, two hour discussions, two and half hour discussions etc., and whoever is interested may table a request to have such discussions.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: But we do not get half an hour even.

TENDER SYSTEM

***1575. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the system of calling for tenders for transport handling on various Railways is being disregarded, and instead such contracts are settled by negotiations;

(b) the reasons for this change-over from tender to negotiation system; and

(c) the number of contracts both through tender and negotiations given on the North Eastern Railway in 1953 and 1954?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Contracts for handling are generally let out on tender. On rare occasions however, they are let out by negotiations in the interests of expeditious work.

(c) During 1953 no handling contracts were awarded either on tender or negotiation. In 1954 one was allotted on tender and another by negotiation.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know what benefits are derived by the Railways by settling the handling contracts by negotiations, or what loss does it suffer?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I have stated in my reply earlier, it is done in the interests of expeditious work.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know whether it is a fact that in the railways, sometimes, even the highest tenders are changed after opening all the tenders, and the contractor who gives the lowest tender is debarred from getting the contract?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I state one thing in this connection? There