

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: How soon do Government propose to bring forward the Bill?

Shri Alagesan: Perhaps during the next session we may be able to bring forward the Bill.

UNSERVICEABLE AIRCRAFTS

***891. Chaudhuri Muhammed Shafee:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircraft which have become unserviceable since the nationalization of the Airlines;

(b) the measures taken to dispose them of; and

(c) the number of new aircrafts acquired by the Indian Air Lines Corporation since its inception?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Four Douglas D C 3 type aircraft.

(b) All the four aircraft were reduced to scrap and have been or are being written off.

(c) The Indian Airlines Corporation have placed an order for eight DH Herons which are expected to be delivered any time now.

Chaudhuri Muhammed Shafee: May I know whether these aeroplanes were unserviceable in their own period or after their period was over?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: These aircraft were involved in accidents, and, as I have said, they have been reduced to scrap.

Shri Joachim Alva: May I know whether Government is strict in the matter of entry of new type of aircraft on our services in as much as Government placed an order for Viscounts, of which 20 were brought for being put on the air by a U.S.A. Airline, licence for which was withheld for nearly two years?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have said the Corporation have placed orders only for Herons. Orders for other air-

craft have not been placed as yet, and Government has not yet taken any decision as to which type of aircraft is going to be ordered.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: What is the total amount that will be written off as a result of the damage to these aircraft and what is the amount that we are spending in buying these eight new aircraft?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Four aircraft were reduced to scrap as a result of accident and their book value will be written off. As they were insured, we will get from the insurance companies the amount for which they were insured.

TOURIST TRAFFIC

***892. Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the difficulties of transport to some historic places like Kushinagar (U.P.), Lumbini, Sarnath, etc., which are often visited by Buddhist pilgrims and foreign tourists; and

(b) if so, the action taken to provide facilities for tourists traffic to those places?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes. The State Government concerned have been requested to make a survey of the existing facilities in regard to transport, stopping centres, accommodation etc. at all these places. Necessary steps will be taken on receipt of their replies.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know when the work in this direction is going to be started?

Shri Alagesan: This concerns pilgrims traffic. In fact, we propose to make a beginning with it in relation to the 2,500 birth anniversary of Lord Buddha which is falling in May, 1956. We have addressed the U.P. and Bihar Governments to make a survey of the