

(b) The cost of operation per ton mile in the case of 'Heron' aircraft is Rs. 1/11/10 as against Rs. 1/14/2 in the case of Dakotas and the saving in cost is, therefore, As. -2/4 per ton mile.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know the names of the new routes on which the Government wants to introduce this aircraft?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It has already been introduced on the Delhi-Lahore route, the Delhi-Agra-Gwalior-Bhopal-Indore-Aurangabad-Bombay route and the Delhi-Bikaner-Jodhpur route. The introduction of this aircraft on the Tiruchirappally-Madurai-Trivandrum-Cochin route, Bombay Baroda-Ahemdabad and Madras-Vijayawada routes is under consideration.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government have cancelled the Delhi-Chandigarh and Delhi-Jullundur and other routes on grounds of economy, and if that is so, may I know whether Government proposes to introduce this aircraft on these routes also?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Chandigarh aerodrome is not yet fully complete. It has to be completed. As soon as it is completed, we will consider the type of aircraft with which we can connect it.

Shri Bogawat: May I know what other steps are taken to overcome the heavy losses in the air services?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is a big question, which will have to be replied at length.

Shipping

*1064. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the rice exporters of India are facing shipping difficulties between India and the Persian Gulf?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): There were recently some complaints about shortage of shipping space on this line but the position has since eased and there are now no such complaints.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस रूट पर कितने फोरेन शिपिंग कम्पनियों इस वक्त वर्क कर रही हैं ?
(How many foreign companies are working?)

श्री शाहनवाज खान : एक तो ब्रिटिश इंडिया स्टीम नैविगेशन कम्पनी है और दूसरी भारत लाईन्स लिमिटेड है।

Shri R. N. Singh: I am asking about the foreign companies working on this line.

Mr. Speaker: Are these foreign or Indian companies?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There are companies in which Indians hold shares.

Some Hon. Members 1956—

Mr. Speaker: Obviously he has no information on that point.

Porters at Howrah Station

*1065. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after 7 months of decasualisation of Railway Licensed Porters at Howrah station, no arrangements have yet been made to execute the individual bond between the porters and the Eastern Railway;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no arrangements have yet been made for police verification of individuals before allowing them to work inside the platform, as per existing rules;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the previous contractor has refused to hand over the list of men and other records regarding the service particulars of the men employed under him; and

(d) if the answer to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The previous contractor has furnished all the Identity Cards of the individual porters; but he has not so far parted with their service records.

(d) Regarding (a), the legal aspects of the agreement proposed to be executed with the porters are still under examination and it is expected that they will be executed very shortly.

Regarding (b), the antecedents of the porters are under verification by the District Police.

Regarding (c), the reasons are not known.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: It has been stated that the agreement will be executed very soon or very shortly. May I know how long he will take to execute this agreement, since there has been already considerable delay in this respect?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I am afraid I cannot lay down the exact date. It will be done shortly.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know the outlines of this agreement? If it is possible to give that information to the House, I shall be very glad.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: It is a fairly lengthy statement. If the hon. Member would like to have that information, I shall give it.

Mr. Speaker: Has he got a draft of the agreement with him? If so, he may lay it on the Table of the Lok Sabha

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Yes, Sir.

Locust Centres

*1066. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the number of Locust Centres in North and North-Western areas of the country sanctioned and set up so far?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): It is presumed that information is sought in respect of anti-locust Centres under the Central Anti-locust Organisation. A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 23].

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the expenditure on these centres is met exclusively by the Government of India or do the Government get any help from the FAO?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There are two points in this regard. In the desert or the scheduled areas the Government of India look after the anti-locust operations and the expenditure is met entirely by the Government of India. In the cultivated areas, the State Governments look after the Operations and they meet the expenditure.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): May I correct it? The expenditure in the scheduled areas is borne by the Government of India to the extent of 40 per cent. and 60 per cent. is collected from the States which are vulnerable.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: My question was whether any help is received from the FAO.

Shri A. P. Jain: No.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether any foreign technicians have also been appointed to direct these operations?

Shri A. P. Jain: There is no foreigner employed.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether any branch of this organisation is to be set up in the north-eastern States? The list does not give any place in those States.

Shri A. P. Jain: There is no need to set up any branch there, because these locusts generally crop up from the Arabian peninsula, breed there and come up to Iran and they hop up to Kutch, Rajasthan and other areas in the north-west of India.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether these Locust Centres have made any effort to study whether the chemicals used in the anti-locust operations are deleterious to the surrounding vegetation?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The tests are conducted in all the stations and only after making sure that the operations are not harmful to the surrounding vegetation, the anti-locust operations are carried out.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: May I know whether the recommendations of the Estimates Committee to transfer the Locust Centre from Delhi to Jodhpur and also to effect retrenchment in the department have been implemented? If not, why not?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: They are under consideration and it will take some time.

Railway Technical School in Orissa

*1067. **Shri Sarangadhar Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board have built the necessary buildings at Khurda Road Station with a view to establish the first railway technical school in Orissa;

(b) whether it is a fact that no attempt has yet been made to start the schools; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) and (c). The question of converting the school for the children of railway employees at Khurda Road to a multi-purpose High School is under consideration.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know for how long it is under consideration?

Shri Alagesan: It has been under consideration for quite some time. The difficulty is that this will be the only school of its kind, if it is started. We have also found that the State Government themselves