

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is being worked out and it will not be advisable for me to disclose it until we arrive at a final figure.

Shri Karni Singhji: May I know whether some months ago some sediments were found in a Dakota owned by the Maharaja of Kotah?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is an entirely different matter and I require a separate notice of that.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if in giving contracts for the supply of Aviation fuel any specification is given and if so, was that specification observed in this particular case?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The specifications are given and they are adhered to. We have to make all attempts to see that they are strictly adhered to. In this particular case, because of the failure of the fuel pump, the representatives and the engineers of the manufacturers as well as our engineers took six samples and analysed the same. They found that they were off the specifications and that there were impurities. Then we put it to the company. In the beginning, their people did not agree with the analysis, but later on they got it analysed by different people and concurred with us in our conclusions in regard to the impurities detected.

Dr. S. N. Sinha: Can we suspect sabotage by such action of the company?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We can do anything we like, but there should be logic of proof behind it.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Is the company liable to pay the damages because the specification was not adhered to?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I said, we have already taken up the question of compensation for the damages sustained by us as a result of the impurities detected in the fuel and the failure of the fuel pump in the Heron Aircraft.

REPLACEMENT OF AIRCRAFT

***1490. Shri Kasliwal:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines Corporation proposes to replace the Skymasters and Vikings by Vickers Viscounts planes;

(b) whether it is so because the former planes have been found unfit for use in the country; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Herons may also be replaced by other aircrafts.

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The proposal to replace the Skymasters and Vikings by Viscounts is a part of the programme of the Indian Airlines Corporation for the modernisation and standardisation of the Indian Airlines Corporation fleet and does not involve any reflection on the operational efficiency of the current types.

(c) The matter is under examination.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know whether the Government is now thoroughly satisfied with the performance of the Skymasters on the night service?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are thoroughly satisfied with the performance of the Skymasters on the night service.

Shri G. S. Singh: May I know the conditions that persuaded the Government, while ordering the Viscount Aircraft, to insist on Bendix Radio equipment as opposed to Marconi Radio equipment recommended by the manufacturers of this Aircraft?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is a matter of Engineering detail and I will not be able to say anything in regard to it without proper notice.

Shri Jaipal Singh: What is the target date for the delivery of the five Viscounts that have already been

ordered by the Ministry? Have the Ministry already made plans for sending engineers to DeHavillands for training, so that they may be ready when the Viscounts begin to operate?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We expect the Viscounts to be delivered by the middle of 1957 and the operations will begin after that.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In answer to part (c) of the question, the hon. Minister has said that the matter of replacement of Herons is under consideration. May I know the reason for it? Is it because Herons have not been very successful or is there any structural failure in them? Previously in answer to one of my supplementaries, the hon. Minister said that Herons were very good. May I know the reason for the reconsideration?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already replied to that in the previous question. I have said that certain failures in the fuel pump were due to the impurities in the fuel and in two or three cases we have detected pilot error. It is not possible for me to say that they are very bad or very good. I only said that technically they were not unsatisfactory.

Shri Karni Singhji: Is it a fact that one of the Herons was reported to have structural failure?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The report of failure of some kind was received but I cannot exactly say whether it was a case of structural failure without proper enquiry in the matter.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: In the Skymasters, there are 3 seats on one side and 2 seats on the other side and it is very uncomfortable. Is the Government thinking of converting the 3 seats into 2 seats, so that there may be room for free movement?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The fact whether it is comfortable or not more or less depends on the corporeal proportions of the individual passenger.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know whether Government have in their consideration the question of purchase of Convairs as against Viscounts?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We appointed an expert committee. They advised us on the merits and demerits of each of these two types, the Convairs and the Viscounts. We have accepted the advice tendered to us by these experts.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEES

***1460. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1507 on the 6th September, 1955 and state:

(a) whether Railway Board have since concluded their consultation with the Ministry of Finance in formulating the principles on which the precise assessment of the element of over-capitalisation on the Railways should be made; and

(b) if so, the further steps taken to assess the same?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The principles on which precise assessment of over capitalisation should be made, are still under reference with the Ministry of Finance and their acceptance is awaited.

(b) Does not arise.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF P & T EMPLOYEES

***1461.** { **Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:**
Shri Asthana:
Babu Ramnarayan Singh:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the resolutions passed at a meeting of the Federal Council of the National Federation of Post and