

they had been certified by the C.A.A. of the U.S.A., they have been put out for sale.

Shri Velayudhan : May I know whether the order is placed before assigning the price or the cost involved ?

Shri Raj Bahadur : The price is all given out, but it varies upon certain factors, such as, which types of engines we propose to take how much spares we intend to order for and how much quantity of spares we want to acquire and so on. Those factors have also to be taken into account.

Shri Kasliwal : Recently there was a huge jet aircraft that came from the Soviet Union and it is quite likely that the hon. Minister may have seen it. May I know whether, before placing the order for the Boeing aircraft, Government gave their consideration to the question of purchase of such kinds of aircraft ?

Shri Raj Bahadur : In capacity and performance and in range of flight the two types of aircraft are essentially different from each other. The TU-104 which is the Russian plane, flies at a comparable speed but then its seating capacity is much less and the range is about 2,000 miles whereas in the case of the American jet, the range is about 4,000 miles.

Sardar Iqbal Singh : We are buying these discount aircraft from U.K. and we are also buying from the U.S.A. May I know whether the Government have got any programme so that our aircraft may be standardised, and may I know the preference, and the reasons for the preference, which the Government of India have given to U.S.A. aircraft ?

Shri Raj Bahadur : The two types of aircraft are essentially different from each other and are meant for different sectors. The Boeing 707 jet type, which is the latest in the field, is meant for international flights. The Viscount also can do international flights, but there is nothing to compare it with the other so far as speed capacity and range are concerned. We propose to put the Viscount on the internal flights.

Shri Karni Singhji : May I know what will be the price of one of these aircraft ?

Shri Raj Bahadur : In the neighbourhood of Rs. 3 crores each.

Shri Joachim Alva : Was the availability of spare parts in the matter of TU-104 planes one of the factors responsible for the rejection of or not buying that type especially as Moscow is only within 64 hours flying distance from Delhi ?

Shri Raj Bahadur : The proposal for the purchase of TU-104 has never been taken up. As a matter of fact that plane came to our country and we saw it but there has been no negotiation for the purchase of TU-104 so far.

Cottage Industries Conference

*327. **Shri Keshavalengar :** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the steps taken by the Central Silk Board to implement the recommendations of the Inter-States Conference on Khadi and Village Industries and the Handicrafts and Sericulture Industries held at New Delhi on the 20th and 21st June, 1956 ?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 34].

Shri Keshavalengar : I find from item 3 of the statement that schemes have been called for from the States before 21st October and some schemes have accordingly been received. What are the States from which schemes have been received ? If Mysore is one of them and has submitted its schemes, has any tentative allocation of funds been made in respect of these schemes ?

Shri Satish Chandra : We have received 25 schemes, after this conference. These are from Madras, Punjab and Coorg. Mysore is one of the defaulters.

Shri S. C. Deb : May I know whether the Silk Board will be under the administration of Khadi and Village Industries Board ?

Shri Satish Chandra : Silk Board is a statutory body set up by the Parliament and it has nothing to do with the Khadi and Village Industries Board.

Minorities

+
 { **Shri Gidwani ;**
Shri D. C. Sharma ;
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh ;
 *328. { **Shri R. P. Garg ;**
Shri Bansal ;
Shri Bibhuti Mishra ;
Shri Krishnacharya Joshi ;

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pakistan Prime Minister has sent any communication to Prime Minister of India regarding the treatment of minorities in India; and

(b) if so, whether any reply has been sent to the Government of Pakistan and the nature thereof ?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda) : (a) Yes. The Prime Minister received on the 19th October, 1956, a personal letter from the Pakistan Prime Minister. The career, while acknowledging the prompt action taken by the Government in regard to the book "Religious Leaders", referred to the communications that followed the agitation over the publication of the book and stated public opinion in Pakistan was becoming extremely agitated at reports received from India.

(b) The Prime Minister's reply, which was sent on 23rd October, 1956 gave the background of the publication of the book mentioned the prompt action taken by the authorities to withdraw the book from circulation and to deal with the agitation and its aftermath. It was pointed out to the Pakistan Prime Minister that the demonstrations by the Muslims were violent, offensive slogans were used and offices were burnt and that some Pakistani nationals who were visiting India, took part in the disturbances in some places. These violent demonstrations led to counter demonstrations by other communal elements and the local authorities took firm action to deal with both to restore law and order and to bring the offenders, who committed arson and loot, to book. Pakistan Prime Minister's attention was also invited to the official reply sent to the Government of Pakistan on 12th October in connection with similar allegations made by the Pakistan Government through their High Commissioner in Delhi.

Shri Gidwani : Are the Government aware that in Sind which is a part of West Pakistan, there were attacks on minorities and their property in different places on 21-9-1956 i.e. 'Protest day' and whether, even their religious places were attacked, though Shri Suhrawardy the Pakistan Prime Minister had assured—it is reported—the Government of India that, whatever may happen, in India, his Government was determined to see that the safety, rights and properties of the minorities were safeguarded.

Shri Anil K. Chanda : Yes, Sir. There were very ugly demonstrations and disturbances in both sectors of Pakistan at this period.

Shri B. S. Murthy : What was the right of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to write to us on internal matters and why has the Indian Government been explaining its conduct regarding the so called minorities in India to the Pakistan authorities ?

Shri Anil K. Chanda : This was a personal letter addressed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan to our Prime Minister.

Shri Gidwani : Is Government aware that, as a result of the incidents in Sind, there have been fresh migrations from there into India ?

Shri Anil K. Chanda : I have no information.

Shri D. C. Sharma : May I know if any letter has been written by our Prime Minister with regard to the treatment of minorities in Sind as was done by the Pakistan Prime Minister with regard to the treatment of minorities in India.

Shri Anil K. Chanda : Our High Commission in Karachi drew the attention of the Pakistan Government to the ugly demonstrations in Pakistan.

Shri Joachim Alva : Has the attention of the Prime Minister of Pakistan been drawn to the fact that Indian Press has maintained a very high standard in regard to the treatment of minorities while the Pakistan dailies and periodicals, day in and day out, have indulged in untruthful attacks on India ?

Shri Anil K. Chanda : I have given the gist of our Prime Minister's reply to that letter.

Mr. Speaker : The Prime Minister is not likely to come. Therefore, question No. 293, which has been held over, will be called.

Radio-active Rainfall

+
*293. { **Shri Sadhan Gupta :**
Shri Gidwani :
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh :

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether radio-active rain fell in East U.P. recently ; and

(b) if so, the extent of the radio-activity of the rainfall ?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda) : (a) and (b). The College of Science, Banaras Hindu University, has reported that the background count of radio activity during heavy rains in eastern Uttar Pradesh in September, 1956 showed a sharp rise—6 to 10 times. The measurements were not made by personnel of the Department and it cannot, therefore, vouch for the correctness of the information.

Shri Sadhan Gupta . Dr. Joshi, a reputed physical chemist and Principal of the College of Science, in a Press conference forecast that the rain-water throughout the State of U.P. might become abnormally radio active. Has that forecast been fulfilled or what is the position ?