

Copper Wire Thefts

***341. Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of theft of overhead copper wires of the Posts and Telegraphs Department are continuing;

(b) the latest position in this regard; and

(c) the effective measures being taken to put a stop to such thefts?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri Bhagavati): (a) Yes.

(b) There is no appreciable improvement in the position.

(c) The problem is essentially one of law and order which concerns the State Governments. The following measures have been taken by the P. & T.:

- (i) Close liaison by Circle authorities with State Police authorities to apprehend the culprits.
- (ii) Progressive replacement of copper wire by copperweld wire in theft-affected areas.
- (iii) Sponsoring an enactment for increased punishment for the offence.
- (iv) More extensive use of Electronic instruments for detection of thefts.

Caravelle for I.A.C.

***342.** {
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:
Shri Brij Raj Singh-Kotah:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri B. P. Yadava:
Shri Dhaon:
Shri Morarka:
Shri Ravindra Varma:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to

Starred Question No. 310 on the 27th August, 1963 and state:

(a) whether it is proposed to purchase another Caravelle in addition to three already indented with France; and

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal and how the foreign exchange requirement is proposed to be met?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Mohiuddin):

(a) and (b). Apart from three Caravelle aircraft, which are due for delivery by January, 1964, the Indian Airlines have submitted a proposal to purchase a 4th Caravelle aircraft involving a foreign exchange expenditure of Rs. 204.91 lakhs for delivery in June, 1964. The proposal is under consideration of Government.

Afforestation

***343.** {
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri H. C. Soy:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steps so far taken by Government to implement the National Forest Policy have failed to achieve their main aim of bringing one third land area under forests;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the additional steps Government propose to take to achieve this aim.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). The aim of bringing one third of the land area of the country under forests could not be achieved so far due to various reasons such as pressure on land etc. It is, however, too early to say that the policy has failed. The target in the Policy is a long term objective and cannot be achieved in one or two decades.