

secure Avro-748 Series II or other suitable aircraft for the regional routes.

The Skymasters and Viscounts will also have to be replaced during the Fourth Five Year Plan period.

(b) An Avro-748 Series II aircraft is expected to be handed over to IAC for trials in the beginning of March. Subject to the aircraft being found suitable for commercial operations the Dakotas will be gradually replaced as the Avros are delivered to the Corporation for route operation.

Voting Rights to Members

460. Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha: Will the Minister of Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the State Acts in which provisions have been made for giving voting rights to the Members of the State Legislatures and Parliament to elect or to get elected to the office of the President of the Block Committee and District Committees under Panchayat Raj Act;

(b) whether any advice has been given to Bihar and other States not to confer voting rights to such persons in the election Panchayat Samities and Zila Parishads; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the reactions of the States, if any?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) to (c). The functioning of a Member of Parliament or of a Legislature of a State as a full member of a Panchayat Samiti or Zila Parishad with the right to vote or hold office is likely to stifle the growth of local leadership. State Governments have therefore been advised that M.Ps./M.L.As. should only be associate members of the Panchayati Raj bodies. The present position in the States is given in the Annexure. [Placed in Library, see No. LT-3884/65].

Loan to Farmers

461. Shri V. V. Thevar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the short term loans under the Intensive Agricultural Development Programme will be given to the agriculturists through the co-operative societies under the authority of Reserve Bank of India in terms of acreage equal to the cost of manure and other expenditure as estimated by Government, in the Madras State; and

(b) whether there is any provision under the package scheme for giving loans for the Coconut plantations and groundnut cultivation in the Madras State?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Under the Intensive Agricultural Programmes, the cultivators participating in the programme are given loans on the basis of their production needs reflected in the farm production plans which are prepared for each such cultivating family. The production needs include cultivators' requirements of various inputs like fertilisers, seeds and other production requisites and also some cultivation expenses. The needs of credit are determined with reference to each crop on the basis of a broad crop-wise scale of finance related to the inputs and the acreage involved. In Madras, the maximum amount up to which a single cropped land under paddy is to be financed under the Package Programme is Rs. 125-150 per acre. For double cropped land, two loans may be provided up to Rs. 125-150 per acre for each crop. There are similar norms adopted for other crops for working out the credit requirements. The loans are given mostly by co-operative societies in Madras which are assisted with funds, whenever required, by the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) For coconut cultivation under the package programme no separate