

(b) the number of persons undergoing training in Britain on those aircrafts; and

(c) the cost of each aircraft?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia):** (a) to (c). A contract was entered into with the English Electric Company, U.K. for the purchase of a certain number of CANBERRA aircraft for the I.A.F. It will not be in the public interest to disclose the details asked for.

#### High Level Committee for Foreign Exchange

**400. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a high level committee to find out ways and means to ration expenditure of foreign exchange in accordance with strict system of priorities; and

(b) if so, whether Government will lay on the Table a statement showing the findings as well as the recommendation of the Committee?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) The question of devising ways and means of meeting the foreign exchange needs of the various projects in the context of the present foreign exchange difficulties has been engaging the attention of Government for some time. The problem is being studied departmentally through a Working Group and not through any formal Committee as such.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above, but the House will be informed in due course of any significant developments either in the foreign exchange situation or in foreign exchange policies *vis-a-vis* the Plan.

#### Travellers' Cheques

**401. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

issue rupee travellers' cheque for the convenience of tourists;

(b) whether arrangements have been made for the sale and encashment of the rupee cheques in foreign countries; and

(c) the countries and the travelling agencies who have shown their willingness to accept the rupee cheques freely?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) and (b). No, Sir. These travellers' cheques are issued by Banks and other similar institutions who make arrangements with various organisations in this and other countries for cashing such instruments.

(c) Indian rupee travellers' cheques are acceptable freely in the Indian Ocean area.

#### Assembly Constituencies of West Bengal

**402. Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state the number of West Bengal Assembly constituencies which were predominantly rural and the number which were predominantly urban where polling was held on the 3rd and 10th March, 1957?

**The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen):** Elections for the West Bengal Assembly were held in 4 predominantly rural constituencies on the 3rd March 1957 and in 19 predominantly rural and 2 predominantly urban constituencies on the 10th March 1957.

#### Transfer of Bank Accounts etc. from Pakistan

**403. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the number of individuals who availed of the extension of time to apply for transfer of their accounts from banks in Pakistan; and

(b) whether Pakistan Government have since agreed to the proposal re-