

(c) whether Government propose to manufacture more such gliders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The glider has been constructed at the Technical Centre of the Civil Aviation Department and is the first two-seater glider, with side-by-side seating arrangement, to be designed and constructed in India. It has been constructed mainly from indigenous materials like Himalayan spruce and white cedar plywood. It has dual controls and has been designed for compliance with airworthiness requirements for semi-acrobatic type of gliders.

(c) and (d). The Technical Centre of the Civil Aviation Department is at present constructing prototype gliders of various types by using indigenous materials, as far as possible. It is proposed to construct at least 4 or 5 more Rohini Gliders at the Technical Centre as development prototypes. Commercial production of the gliders is not undertaken at the Technical Centre.

Blood Banks

***119. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Blood Banks are run by Government; and

(b) if so, how many and where?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Blood Bank is functioning in the Safdarjang Hospital and another Blood Bank has been sanctioned for the Willingdon Hospital. There is a proposal to establish a Blood Bank in Delhi under the auspices of the Indian Red Cross Society. According to the information available in this Ministry,

there are 75 Blood Banks run by the various State Governments/Administrations.

P. & T. Employees

***120. Shri Balraj Madhok:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are large number of employees in telephone Deptt. whose pay has not been fixed so far on the basis of the recommendations of the Pay Commission, while in other several cases arrears of pay have not been remitted to the employees; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to do the needful without any further delay?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) No.

(b) The few remaining cases are under settlement.

Calcutta-Agartala Air Service

***121. Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received regarding timing of the Fokker Friendship air service between Calcutta and Agartala; and

(b) whether the present time-schedule is proposed to be changed to avoid night flights?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The timings have been revised effective 1-7-1961. The plane now leaves Calcutta at 16.40 hours, and returns back at 19.35 hours, against the earlier scheduled timings of 18.15 hours and 20.55 hours, respectively.