

Purchase of Viscounts

2674. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to buy two more Viscounts;

(b) if so, the routes on which they will operate;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to introduce Boeing aircraft on the Bombay-Madras-Singapore-Jakarta route, replacing Super-Constellations; and

(d) if so, when it is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) With the increase in the fleet of Viscounts, the India Airlines Corporation propose to increase the frequencies on the trunk routes.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir, as and when the Madras Airport is suitably developed for Boeing operations. Estimates in this regard are under preparation.

Jute Industry

2675. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India are aware of the fact that 1961 is a difficult year for the Jute Industry and cultivation; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken for its safeguard and increase in the area of cultivation?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The year 1961 has so far been a difficult year for the Jute Industry because of shortfall in indigenous production during the last two jute seasons. This year has, however, been favourable so far as jute cultivation is concerned and it is expected that the produce of jute would meet the demand.

(b) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to take measures for increased output of raw jute. The Government of India are helping the States by research in the various important problems of Jute cultivation and by providing adequate quantities of fertilizers and financial assistance for subsidized distribution of improved seeds. The Government are also giving financial assistance to the States for providing adequate and better retting facilities to the cultivators by means of excavation of new tanks and improvement of the existing ones and also for schemes for adoption of improved agricultural practices through improved implements and for plant protection schemes. Short term loans are being given for the purchase of fertilizers for the jute crop.

Timber Trade of Bihar

2676. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the timber trade of Bihar has been heavily affected due to shortage of wagons; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to supply more wagons?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Government are not aware that timber traffic of Bihar has been heavily affected due to shortage of wagons.

(b) Does not arise. It is, however, pointed out that when special endeavour was made in the months of April and May 1961 to clear the outstanding indents of timber traffic from the Chakradharpur District which is the main timber producing area of Bihar on the South Eastern Railway, it resulted in the cancellations of 306 indents against loading of 1218 wagons indicating inflated demands.

Thefts and Pickpocketing Cases

2677. Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many thefts and cases of pickpocketing have been reported on

the Purlī-Vaijnath Station of the Central Railway, giving the particulars and the amount of thefts and pickpocketing during 1959-60 and 1960-61;

(b) what efforts have been made to punish the offenders;

(c) whether it is a fact that the above has been a permanent feature on this station; and

(d) in how many cases the amounts have been recovered and made good to the passengers during the above period?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Statement giving the required particulars, is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 71].

(b) Vigorous investigation of the cases reported, is promptly undertaken and thorough enquiries made about the known criminals operating in the area affected.

A watch is also kept on the known black spots and patrolling has been intensified.

(c) An analysis of the over-all crime position shows that the situation at Purlī-Vaijnath hardly warrants any anxiety and is well under control.

Panchayati Raj

2678. Shri Rami Reddy: Will the Minister of Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee for evaluating the implementation of Panchayat Raj and its working has been appointed by either the Centre or any State Government; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference?

The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri M. S. Murthy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Telephone Subscribers in Malegaon

2679. Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone subscribers with extensions in Malegaon, district Nasik;

(b) the number of telephone operators at the above place, and what should be the justified number;

(c) the strength of new subscribers sanctioned over and above the present strength; and

(d) the capacity of the present board of connections and what efforts are being made to increase the strength of the Board?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) Main connections—191; Extensions—34.

(b) 8 telephone operators. This number is justified on the number of boards existing at present.

(c) About 95 connections would be given when additional 100 lines are installed at the end of August, 1961.

(d) The present capacity is 200 lines. The 200-line board is expected to be replaced by a 300-line board by the end of August, 1961. Further expansion by 100 lines has also been sanctioned.

Rajasthan-Kandla Port Road

2680. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhad: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration to have Rajasthan and Kandla Port Road; and

(b) if so, the total expenses and the contribution by each State—Rajasthan and Gujarat?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No proposal for any new road between the Kandla