

December, 1958. Since then it is being renewed periodically and is at present valid upto 31st March 1972.

(c) The company is at present operating on the following three routes :

1. Calcutta-Agartala.
2. Calcutta-Jalpaiguri via Purnea.
3. Calcutta-Jalpaiguri-Telcpara-Grassmore-Bhatpara-Newlands.

Planes owned by Jamair Airlines

3791. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of planes owned by Jamair Airlines at present in the country ;

(b) the estimated value of the planes ; and

(c) the number of planes of this company which crashed so far and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) and (b). The fleet of Jamair consists of three Skymasters and three Dakotas and their value is estimated at Rs. 27.5 lakhs. (This does not include two Dakotas valued at about Rs 6 lakhs which were involved in fatal accidents in the recent past).

(c) Two Dakotas were involved in major accidents—one on 5th December 1970 near Safdarjung aerodrome and the other on 26th March 1971 near Hashimara.

The investigation report in respect of accident on 5th December 1970 has been received recently and is under examination. The accident on 26th March 1971 near Hashimara is under investigation by a Court of Inquiry.

Demand for Devaluation of Indian Rupee by World Bank

3792. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank had demanded for further devaluation of the Indian rupee ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the decision taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Loan from World Bank for Purchase of Tractors

3793. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India had entered into an agreement with the World Bank for a loan to finance 10,000 tractors to be made available from United States of America, United Kingdom and West Germany ;

(b) the approximate price for one tractor imported according to this agreement ; and

(c) the approximate price of more or less the same type of tractor imported from the Socialist countries ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) During the last one year, Government of India has signed five development credit agreements with the International Development Association, an affiliate of the World Bank, for agricultural credit projects in the States of Gujarat, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Tamil Nadu. The Credit amount in each case provides for import of agricultural tractors as under Gujarat (2200) Punjab (8000), Andhra Pradesh (1500), Haryana (6000) and Tamil Nadu (1500) over a two to three year period. Tractors are to be imported from those suppliers in the World Bank Member Countries and Switzerland, who have established tractor manufacturing facilities in India, or have obtained necessary approvals of the Government of India, for manufacture of tractors in India.

(b) and (c). Orders have not yet been placed for the import of tractors under the Agreements mentioned in part (a) above.

Contract for interior decoration of Hotel Building at Chanakypuri taken over by ITDC from N. D. M. C.

3794. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND

CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation had taken over the hotel building owned by New Delhi Municipal Committee at Chanakyapuri in New Delhi ;

(b) whether the contract for interior decoration of that hotel had been given to a foreign firm ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for doing so ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) Yes, Sir. India Tourism Development Corporation has recently taken over the N. D. M. C. hotel building in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, to run it as luxury hotel in the name of Akbar Hotel.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A great deal of intricate interior design work is involved which needs expertise of a very high order. As suitable local talent was not available, the services of an internationally known firm of foreign consultants with considerable experience of interior design work in hotels have been requisitioned.

Steps to develop Places of Tourist Attraction in Kerala

3795. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are great possibilities of developing places of tourist attraction in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, what are the special measures Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) A sea resort of international standard for attracting destination tourist traffic is being developed at Kovalam at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.21 crores.

(ii) Periyar Game Sanctuary has been specially selected as one of the five principle game sanctuaries for development to attract tourists. It is proposed to augment the existing accommodation there and to provide motor launches for the transportation of tourists.

(iii) A Youth Hostel is proposed to be built at Trivandrum.

Steps to develop Sunderban in West Bengal as a Tourist Centre

3796. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to develop 'Sunderban' in West Bengal as a tourist centre ;

(b) whether the general charges of tourist hotels there need to be minimised for students and youth of recognized institutions ; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no recognised tourist hotel in the area.

(c) The details in developing 'Sunderban' are being considered in consultation with the State Government.

Merit Scholarships for Students in Residential Schools

3797. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to increase the number of merit scholarships for students in residential schools ; and

(b) if so, the number of scholarships to be allotted to such institutions during the current year ?