

join the services in the International Airports Authority;

(b) whether the Civil Aviation Authority is creating obstacles to permit the PROs. working in the various Airports to join the International Airports Authority; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) The services of 1550 officers/staff of the Civil Aviation Department have been placed on deputation at the disposal of the International Airports Authority of India.

(b) and (c). The Civil Aviation Department did not have any sanctioned category of PROs. However, certain officers like Assistant Aerodrome Officers, Aerodrome Assistants and Aerodrome Operators Grade I who are basically required for air traffic control duties, were also doing PRO Work. As there is an acute shortage of such personnel, it became necessary for the Director General of Civil Aviation to withdraw eight out of ten such officers and the Airports Authority has since been able to find suitable officers from the open market to fill up such vacancies.

Amount paid by Indian Airlines to North Bengal State Transport Corporation, Cooch Behar

8472. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines at Cooch Behar is paying about Rs. 4,000 a month for a vehicle hired from the North Bengal State Transport Corporation, Cooch Behar;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry proposes to ask the Indian Airlines to send a vehicle of its own for its Cooch Behar station instead of paying huge monthly amount; and

(c) the total amount so far paid for hiring the vehicle by the Indian Airlines to the North Bengal State Transport Corporation since introduction of air service, area-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (c). No, Sir. The figure works out to much less. The yearwise payments are given hereunder:—

	Rs.
1969-70 ..	20,850
1970-71 ..	28,985
1971-72 ..	18,550
1972-73 ..	13,015 (Approx.)

(b) At present there is no proposal to position Indian Airlines transport at Cooch Behar.

Non-execution of knitwear orders from Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and other countries

8473 DR. RANEN SEN:

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether orders for about Rs. 18 crore worth of woollen knitwear from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and other countries are likely to remain unexecuted owing to an unparalleled rise in wool prices, and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to bring down the wool prices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) Orders for exports of woollen knitwears to Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and other countries were contracted by associates of S.T.C. on the basis of prices of raw wool prevailing in the international markets. Subsequently, there was a steep rise in the prices