

Aerial Spraying of Pesticides

3916. Shri Reddiar:
Shri M. Malachami:
Shri V. G. Naidu:

Will the Minister of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of planes for aerial spraying of pesticides at present;

(b) the places where the planes are stationed;

(c) the fuel capacity of the planes; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to keep one each at Hyderabad and Madras for use in the South-eastern States?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) A total of 25 aircrafts is available at present for the aerial spraying dusting of pesticides.

(b) Government of India aircraft, 8 in number, are based at Safdarjung, New Delhi. Those of the private sector, 7 fixed wing aircraft and 10 helicopters, are all based at Juhu, Bombay.

(c) Fuel capacities of the various types of aircraft and helicopters used in the agro-aviation role in India are as follows:—

- (i) DHC-2 Beaver (Agricultural Configuration)—86 Imperial gallons (387 litres).
- (ii) Auster Autocar—32 Imperial gallons (144 litres).
- (iii) PZL—101 Gawron-40 Imperial gallons (180 litres)
- (iv) Piper PA-18 Super Cub-36 P.S. gallons (136 litres).
- (v) Piper PA-25-235 Pawnee-40 U. S. gallons (151.4 litres).
- (vi) Bell 47G-2-41 U. S. gallons (184.5 litres).

(d) Government of India's first-phase aerial spraying expansion

scheme envisages the basing of two Aerial Units at Coimbatore/Madras and Hyderabad (Begumpet). These Units, which would be equipped with five aircraft each, are intended to meet all aerial spraying requirements of Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Mysore and Kerala.

I.A.C. Viscount damaged at Borjhar Port

3917. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of **Transport Aviation, Shipping and Tourism** be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Airlines Corporation Viscount was badly damaged at the Borjhar Airport at Gauhati on the 1st April, 1966;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the aircraft operating in the Assam region are old and aged enough and require replacement; and

(d) if so, the action taken to examine and replace the aircraft?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While the aircraft was being taxied to the Parking Bay by the Pilot, the Nose Undercarriage collapsed. The reasons for collapse of the Nose Undercarriage are under investigation by a Board of Investigation.

(c) The air-worthiness of every aircraft put on service is very carefully checked before the certificate of air-worthiness is issued. Also all the overhauls and replacements prescribed by the Director General of Civil Aviation are faithfully carried out.

(d) Replacements of aircraft is determined on the basis of economics of operation. The Corporation are in the process of replacing the Dakota aircraft for this reason. The Viscount aircraft have yet done only less than a third of the number of landings prescribed by the manufacturers for fatigue life of the aircraft.