

(b) the results of the American experiment in which the aircraft were used and the reasons for suspending the experiment;

(c) the reasons for the delay in formulating a consolidated scheme which envisages an expenditure of about Rs. 50 lakhs;

(d) whether attempts to obtain aircraft on loan from the Ministries of Defence and Food and Agriculture were made; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) Seeding of clouds from ground-based generators is the simplest and most economical method, though this has several limitations. A few trial experiments were also made in 1962 using a single-engine aircraft. In view of high cost and non-availability of suitable instrumented aircraft and ground-based and airborne radars, seeding experiments with aircraft could not be continued.

(b) An emergency experiment with U.S. assistance was attempted in the drought affected areas of Bihar and East Uttar Pradesh during January-March 1967, but due to the severity of drought and lack of clouds suitable for seeding, the trials were not successful. According to the operational programme agreed to between the two parties, the experiments were terminated at the end of the stipulated period of two months.

(c) in view of the high cost and various other implications involved, experiments or artificial stimulation of rainfall require careful examination and planning from all aspects before these are undertaken. A scheme drawn up for the purpose is at present under active consideration of the Committee on Atmospheric Sciences and Scientific Hydrology of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

(d) and (e). Aircraft of the type suitable for conducting the experiments are not available with the Ministries of Defence and Food and Agriculture.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST LEADERS IN VISHVA-NETA, DELHI

6845. SHRI R. K. AMIN :

SHRI DEVAN SEN :

SHRI KIKKAR SINGH :

SHRI RAM CHANDRA J. AMIN:

SHRI P. N. SOLANKI :

SHRI D. R. PARMAR :

SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the serious allegations made against some of the top leaders of the country in the Vishva-Neta, a Delhi Weekly, in its issue of the 11th July, 1968;

(b) whether the allegations contained therein are true; and

(c) if not, the action taken or proposed to be taken against the said Weekly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The 11th July, 1968 issue of the "Vishva-Neta" has come to the notice of the Government, in which a report has been published regarding a complaint filed by the editor of the weekly in the court of Sub-divisional Magistrate, New Delhi, making allegations against, among others, some leaders of the country.

(b) and (c). The matter is *sub judice*.