

[Shri Dalbir Singh]

Rail despatches of LDO from Bombay suffered a minor set-back in February 1973 on account of the extremely heavy demand for the movement by rail of Diesel Oils and Furnace Oil for power generation. Consequently, despite the augmentation of rail movement capacity to the maximum possible extent, all the requirements could not be met in full. The position has since been remedied by adopting the following measures:

- a. Rationalising the supply of Furnace Oil for power generation to the Power Stations served by the two refineries at Bombay and by the Koyali Refinery at Baroda.
- b. Connecting the storage depots of the oil companies at Kandla with the broad-gauge rail system which has provided a second rail supply route for the broad-gauge destinations in the north-west region and has afforded relief to the Bombay loading terminals. It has now been verified that the demand for LDO in Satna region is being met satisfactorily.

As for HSDO, there were some set-backs in despatches from Allahabad to Satna during January 1973 largely due to the delayed arrival of imported Crude Oil at Barauni Refinery, owing to port problems and also mechanical break-down of a tanker, which was being utilised for this purpose. Here again, the position has since normalised and in February, 1973 the supplies of HSDO to Satna from Allahabad were 43% more than in February 1972 as will be seen from the following figures:

(In tonnes)			
February, 1972	1140
February, 1973	1628

13 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MEMBER *re.* REFUSAL BY INDIAN AIRLINES TO TAKE DELIVERY OF AVRO PLANES

SHRI H. M. PATEL (Dhandhuka) : On 23rd February, the Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation gave the following answer to Starred Question No. 61. "Indian Airlines have received three HS-748 aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. against their latest order of ten. The remaining seven have not yet been offered to Indian Airlines. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited have advised Indian Airlines that there are some production problem, and that the matter is being examined in consultation with their collaborators M/s. Hawker Siddeley Ltd."

The Minister's answer, it will be seen, categorically, denies that an offer of Avro aircraft was made by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to the Indian Airlines and that therefore there was no question of Indian Airlines declining to accept it. I submit that the Minister has misled the House in view of the following:

On the 24th October, 1971 Hindustan Aeronautics Limited wrote to the Indian Airlines saying that they had run into certain difficulties in connection with the fourth avro aircraft and proposed to get over those difficulties in a certain manner which they specified in their letter. Their letter then went on to put the following specific question. "We now await DGCA's acceptance of our proposals to enable us to proceed further with deliveries of Indian Airlines aircraft Nos. 4-6 out of the current order for 10, and would be grateful if Indian Airlines would also confirm to us that the line of action proposed in this letter is acceptable from their point of view."

In reply to this letter Indian Airlines wrote on the 8th November a long letter in the course of which they said: "In the light of the above, it would, therefore not be possible for us to accept these aircraft with the added Operation Costs".

It will be clear from the above that an offer was made by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for Avro 4-6 with certain modifications proposed to be carried out and that the Indian Airlines had replied in clear terms that the Avro aircraft with the modifications proposed by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited were not acceptable to it.

I would like to know what the Minister has to say in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : Sir, On 23rd February, 1973, in reply to Starred Question No. 61 I had informed the House that Indian Airlines had taken delivery of three HS-748 aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., against their latest order of ten, and that the remaining seven had not yet been offered to Indian Airlines.

The factual position is that during the months of April, May and June, 1972, Indian Airlines took delivery of three aircraft after HAL had obtained the appropriate airworthiness certificates in respect of these planes from the Director General of Civil Aviation. HAL, however, ran into some production problems with the 4th, 5th and 6th aircraft for Indian Airlines, and wrote to them suggesting the incorporation of certain modifications and enquiring whether these would be acceptable. Indian Airlines replied that the proposed modifications would increase their operating costs and were, therefore, unacceptable. They also made certain alternative suggestions. Such mutual consultations between HAL and Indian Airlines regarding important changes in aircraft specifications cannot be considered unusual or abnormal, and the correspondence exchanged between them cannot be interpreted as an offer of sale of an aircraft or as a refusal to accept delivery on the part of Indian Airlines.

It is the responsibility of HAL to obtain a transport category airworthiness certificate for the aircraft from the Director General of Civil Aviation and each aircraft, at the time of its delivery to Indian Airlines, must meet the Director General's requirements for airworthiness certification. None of the three aircraft in question, namely the fourth, fifth and sixth, has been produced before the Director General of Civil Aviation for the issuance of the appropriate certificates. Until such certificates have been applied for and obtained, the aircraft cannot be offered for delivery to Indian Airlines by HAL, and the question of Indian Airlines refusing to accept delivery also does not arise.

In the circumstances, I submit that my replies to Starred Question No. 61 and the Supplementary Questions following it were correct.

13.04 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. APPOINTMENT OF EVALUATION TEAM FOR AVRO

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my statement in this Hon'ble House on the 20th March I had indicated that Government had decided to institute a high-level examination of all aspects of the AVROs, and that I would announce the details shortly. I would like to inform the House that the evaluation will be conducted by Dr. Satish Dhawan, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He will be assisted by technical advisers drawn from the Indian Air Force, Air-India, Indian Airlines, Department of Defence Production and the National Aeronautical Laboratory.

The evaluation will cover all aspects of the AVRO, with special reference to its safety under various operating conditions. The report will be submitted within 60 days from the date the Evaluation Team starts its work.