

Loss of Foreign Exchange to Air-India by Strike

*1068. Shri Virendrakumar Shah
Shri Ram Kishan Gupta.
Shri Y S. Kushwah:
Shri Raghuvir Singh Shastri:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Ram Avtar Sharma:
Shri Atam Das:
Shri Shiv Kumar Shastri:
Dr Surya Prakash Puri:
Shri Sradhakar Supakar
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state

(a) whether the Air-India is suffering tremendous loss of foreign exchange day-by-day owing to the strike by the Air India Pilots,

(b) if so, the total foreign exchange lost on this account so far,

(c) the number and details of the Air-India Services cancelled and delayed, and

(d) how the emoluments of the Air-India Pilots compare with those of other International Airlines category-wise?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr Karan Singh) : (a) The Air-India suffered a net loss of approximately Rs 5 00 lakhs in foreign exchange per day on account of the strike of its pilots

(b) The estimated foreign exchange loss during the 4 days of the strike is Rs 20 00 lakhs

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See No LT-980/67]

(d) Information regarding the emoluments of pilots of other Airlines is not readily available

Modernisation of Agriculture

*1069. Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether any comprehensive plan has been drawn up to modernise agriculture in the country on a national basis;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor,

(c) whether the need for the same has been examined and

(d) if so, with what results?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Anasahab Shinde): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See So LT-981/67]

(b) to (c) Do not arise

Purchase of Wheat from U.S.A

*1070 Shri M. L. Sondhi.
Shri Marandi

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have postponed major purchases of wheat from U.S.A on account of increase in freight as a result of the closure of the Suez Canal and

(b) if so the quantity involved and how the requirements of food are to be met as a result of the above postponement

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Anasahab Shinde) : (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise

Crash Food Programme in Jammu and Kashmir

*1071 Shri Madhu Limaye.
Shri S M. Banerjee
Shri George Fernandes:
Dr Ram Manohar Lohia.

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether the Kashmir Government have asked for an annual subsidy of Rs 8 crores for its 'Crash Food Production Programme',

(b) whether Government have acceded to this request, and

(c) whether Government have given priority to such a request over the requests of the famine-stricken areas of UP and Bihar?