

**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?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise

**Indian Airlines Corporation**

\*1072. **Shri Baburao Patel:** Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that the TWA, Alitalia BOAC, Lufthansa Air India airlines show consistent profits every year even though they face severe competition and are run on commercial lines, and

(b) if so, why the Indian Airlines Corporation does not make any profits in spite of the fact that it carries over 100 per cent load regularly and runs as a monopoly concern without competition?

**The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr Karan Singh)** (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Indian Airlines Corporation had made profits during the years 1959-60 to 1965-66. However, they incurred a loss during the year 1966-67 which was due largely to the effect of devaluation and increased wage bill.

**Ration System in Drought-Hit States**

\*1073 **Shri D N Patodia .**  
**Shri R Barua**  
**Shri Marandi .**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports that the ration system in foodgrains, in the drought-hit States is on the verge of break down due to the non-availability of the requisite quantity of the commodities there, and

(b) the steps taken by Government to supply to those States the minimum quantity of the foodgrains to maintain the minimum ration supply there?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Annasahib Shinde):** (a) Yes, Sir Government have seen the press reports relating to Bihar.

(b) The Central Government are arranging supplies of foodgrains to the drought-hit States to the maximum extent possible within the limited availability, keeping in view the minimum needs of others.

**Directive to Drought-affected States to Write off Loans Outstanding against Farmers**

\*1074 **Shri R Barua :**  
**Shri D N Patodia .**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether the Central Government have asked the State Governments to write off loans outstanding against the farmers for purchasing seeds and fertilisers in the areas where severe drought conditions are prevailing, and

(b) if so the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Annasahib Shinde):** (a) No such direction has been given by the Central Government to the drought-affected States. The question of writing off of the outstanding loans against the farmers is primarily a matter for consideration of the respective State Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

**Punjab Government's Offer of Surplus Wheat for Scarcity Areas**

\*1075 **Shri Marandi .**  
**Shri Kameshwar Singh :**  
**Shri Prakash Vir Shastri .**  
**Shri Shiv Kumar Shastri .**  
**Shri Ram Avtar Sharma :**  
**Shri Y S. Kushwah :**  
**Shri Hukam Chand Kachwal .**  
**Shri Alam Das :**  
**Shri Bhanuvir Singh Shastri .**  
**Shri Arjun Singh Bhadoria :**  
**Shri Ramji Ram :**  
**Shri J. Sundar Lal :**  
**Dr. Surya Prakash Puri :**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that Punjab