

Delhi to all the ration card holders, irrespective of the fact whether the cards are for monthly or fortnightly quota;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when the card holders can be expected to get their rations according to their scheduled demands?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Yes, Sir. As a temporary measure ration card holders are allowed to draw their rations only for a week at a time w.e.f. the 19th July, 1967.

(b) Due to less arrivals of wheat in the ports during the second half of June and the first-half of July, despatches to Delhi had somewhat slowed down with the result that the stocks at Delhi were at a low level.

(c) Stocks are now being received in Delhi from the ports at a faster rate and it is expected that the position will improve very shortly. Thereafter, the former system of issuing rations on monthly, fortnightly and weekly basis according to the option exercised by the ration card holders will be resumed.

Strike threat by D.M.S. employees

*1513. **Shri A. Sreedharan:**

Shri Mangalathumadam:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Delhi Milk Scheme have threatened to go on an indefinite strike; and

(b) if so, the steps which Government have taken to avert the strike?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): a) and (b). The Delhi Milk Scheme Employees Union

had, in a letter dated 14.7.1967, given notice of a general strike from the mid-night of Friday, i.e. 21/22nd July, 1967. An agreement was reached between the Management and the Employees Union in a Conciliation Meeting held on 21.7.1967 and the strike was averted.

Import of French Equipment by I.A.C.

*1514. **Shri Gunanand Thakur:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:

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

(a) whether the Indian Airlines Corporation have entered into any contract recently/last year with French Companies/firms for the supply of certain equipment such as fork-lift or the like;

(b) whether the outlay on this was about 8 lakh francs;

(c) who negotiated/initiated/approved this contract/agreement/arrangement;

(d) whether this equipment is lying idle and had been found to be of no use to the Indian Airlines Corporation; and

(e) whether any action has been taken against the Officer concerned in this regard?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) I.A.C. purchased 5 Diesel Engine forklifts from France in April, 1967.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The purchase was affected on the basis of a detailed study by senior technical officers of the Corporation.

(d) No, Sir. These are intended to be used, one each at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras and Hyderabad. One unit has already been put into operation at Bombay. Steps are in hand to train the staff on the operation, maintenance and overhaul of