

(a) whether a decision has been taken to manufacture freighters aircraft for the Indian Air Force in H A L, Kanpur,

(b) if so, whether this would avoid transfers and retrenchments of the employees of H A L, and

(c) what further steps have been taken to provide more work in H A L ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Yes Sir

(c) It has also been decided to transfer the Basant Agricultural aircraft production from Bangalore Complex to Kanpur Division of HAL

Achievement of Self-sufficiency in Conventional Weapons

507 SHRI S M BANERJEE Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the stage of self-sufficiency in the matter of manufacture of conventional weapons has been reached and

(b) if not, whether it is likely to be reached during the Fifth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) (a) and (b) We have achieved self-sufficiency in respect of small arms light artillery and their ammunition. Indigenous capacity is also being progressively established in the country in respect of field and medium artillery and every possible effort will be made to attain self-sufficiency, in this area to the extent possible during the Fifth Plan.

Withdrawal of monthly all-route passes by D.T.C.

508 SHRI HARI SINGH Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether Delhi Corporation has decided to withdraw the monthly all-route pass concession to the commuters recently, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H M TRIVEDI) (a) Yes Sir The DTC Board decided to withdraw the facility of monthly all route pass of Rs 30 with effect from the 15th January 1975. However the monthly concessional passes issued to the general public at 45 single fares for 60 journeys are being continued.

(b) This facility has been withdrawn for the reasons indicated below —

(i) The operational cost of the Corporation's vehicles has gone up considerably and the area served by it has also expanded. The amount of Rs 30/- for the pass thus ceased to have relation to the existing operational cost and area of operation of the Corporation. It was considered uneconomic to continue the facility.

(ii) DTC is reorganising its route structure on scientific lines. Under the scheme, private buses have to be utilized under the Administrative and Operational Control Charges Scheme to provide feeder services from the rural and suburban areas to peripheral nodes established on the Ring Road. As the Private Operators, could not recognise these passes, the continuance of the facility would have interfered with the smooth operation of the services.

Since a large number of representations have been received against the abolition of these passes, the matter is proposed to be placed before the DTC Board for reconsideration

Acceptance of Hindi as a language of U.N

509 SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of India have taken a decision to make a new attempt in the UN for the acceptance of Hindi as a language of the proceedings of the UN, and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND (SHRI BIPINPAD DAS) (a) and cial and working languages of the UN would require an amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly supported by a majority of the members present and voting Government is in the process of making an assessment regarding the possibility of Hindi being accepted as one of the languages of the UN. Our Permanent Representative in New York has been instructed to consult with other delegations. Further action, as necessary, will be taken on the basis of this assessment.

Fresh small pox cases in Bihar

510 SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether several fresh cases of small pox have been reported from at least ten Districts of Bihar State recently;

(b) whether there is a fear that a situation far worse than what it was last season may be witnessed during the coming epidemic season; and

(c) if so, what Anti-Epidemic measures the Central Government propose to take in advance to avoid vast scale deaths?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A K M ISHAQUE) (a) Yes

(b) No

(c) The following measures are being continued to check the possibility of a smallpox epidemic in Bihar

- (1) The Intensive Anti-Smallpox Campaign is being continued in the year 1975. At present 48 special Surveillance Teams headed by 20 National Epidemiologists and 23 WHO Epidemiologists are working in Bihar. One hundred State Surveillance Teams comprising a Medical Officer, a Para Medical Assistant and a Driver alongwith vehicle have been formed to intensify active search and Containment activities.
- (ii) Top priority is being accorded to organise quality search operations in all the districts of Bihar with the objective of detection of all hidden foci of infection for effective containment. Mobility of the State teams headed by National, WHO and State Epidemiologists to intensify supervision has been ensured by the supply of adequate number of vehicles and P.O.L.
- (iii) A cash reward of Rs 100/- has been announced to anybody who reports an active case of smallpox, hitherto unknown to the health authorities.
- (iv) In order to enhance the voluntary acceptability of vaccination and prompt reporting of any suspected case of smallpox, adequate quanti-