

(b) if so, the number and types thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the replacement of Dakotas has been effected thereby?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One Caravelle aircraft was acquired in December, 1965 and two Fokker Friendship aircraft were secured on charter for operation between November, 1965 and April, 1966.

(c) The acquisition of additional aircraft has enabled the Corporation to provide Friendship services on some of the routes previously operated with Dakotas.

National Highway in Assam

87. Shri Liladhar Kotokl: Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of bridges on National Highway No. 37 in Assam need urgent reconstruction; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in the matter?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) On N.H. 37 there are 26 major bridges which have to be reconstructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 339 crores. Contracts for all these bridges have been awarded to various contractors, and work on most of them has been commenced. Every effort is being made to complete the works before the monsoon of 1967.

In addition to the 26 major bridges, there are a large number of weak and narrow minor bridges having individual lengths less than 100 ft. each. As a first phase programme these bridges have been strengthened for class 13 loading. Under the second phase, the reconstruction of these minor bridges has been taken up recently.

Pay Scales of Veterinary Doctors in Delhi

88. Shri Linga Reddy: Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) the pay-scales of the Veterinary Doctors prevalent in the different States in India;

(b) the steps taken to bring about uniformity in the different grades of the Veterinary Services;

(c) whether the Central Pay Commission had recommended the appointment of the Mysore Veterinary Graduates in the pay scale of Rs. 350--800;

(d) whether Government are aware of the strike by the Veterinary students' and Doctors' agitation in Mysore for the implementation of the said pay scales since the 19th November, 1965; and

(e) if so, the steps taken both by the Central and State Governments in this respect?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) to (e). The fixation and revision of pay scales of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in the States are the responsibility of the State Governments. The jurisdiction of the Second Central Pay Commission was restricted to Central Government employees only. The pay scales of Veterinary Doctors employed by the State Governments vary from State to State. To bring about uniformity in these pay scales, as far as possible, the State Governments including Mysore were advised in August, 1961, that the recommendations of the Agricultural Administration Committee (Nalagarh Committee) which *inter-alia* provided for revision of scales of pay for agricultural services should *mutatis mutandis* be made applicable to Animal Husbandry Services also.