Civil Aviation Training Scholarships

Major Pole, on December 5, asked the Secretary of State for India particulars in respect of the scheme for training Indians in civil aviation by means of Government scholarships in this country; and the number of scholarships which have been granted under this scheme since its inception in 1898.

Mr. Benn: The scheme, which is estimated to cost approximately £375,000 over a period of seven years, provides for three-year scholarships, being granted as follows:—1929-30; 1929, 1929-30; 1930-31; 1931-32; 1932-33. The course of instruction comprises:—

(1) Flying training at a flying school;
(2) A post-graduate course of instruction in aeronautics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, extending over 12 months;
(3) Nine months' practical work in training aircraft and engines, and surveys in India;
(4) Attachment to the Civil Aviation Traffic Control Department at Croydon Aerodrome for a period of three months.

In accordance with the scheme, eight students are at present under training in this country.

Indian Air Mail Services

Mr. Benn, Secretary of State for India, on December 9, in answer to Major Pole, said the sum of £375,000, which represented the estimated cost of subsidies for the operation of trans-India air-mail services during the four years 1929-30 to 1932-33, included provision for the contemplated extension of the air-mail service not only to Delhi but far to Calcutta.

Singapore Bane

Capt. Balfour) asked if parachutes are yet adapted for use on and compulsory equipment for pilots and crews of sea-going aircraft and flying-boats.

Mr. Montague: As regards the first two parts of the question, the amount extended to date on the air base at Singapore is approximately £700,000, and the sum required for its completion £500,000. As regards the third part, the facilities which are being provided will serve, not only for local defence, but also for the maintenance of British air communications in the Far East, and for the shore training and repair of equipment of air units allocated to naval forces in those waters. As regards the fourth part, the strength of the Air Forces in the Indian Empire is one squadron of land machines and one squadron of seaplanes.