

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) In about six months' time.

Sugar Factory at Palia Kalan in U.P.

922. Shri B. Verma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a licence has been granted to put up a sugar factory at Palia Kalan in District Khin (Uttar Pradesh);

(b) if so, to whom; and

(c) what are the chances of its being constructed?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Farrakka Barrage

923. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in the construction of the Farrakka Barrage;

(b) whether some difficulties are likely to arise in the construction of the Barrage; and

(c) if so, what are they and how they are proposed to be tackled?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammed Ibrahim):

(a) to (c). A Statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Land has been acquired for a township on the Project site and arrangements for construction are in hand. Some temporary construction has already been put up to house the construction staff. Godowns have been built for storage of cement and other

materials. Scales of office and residential accommodation in the Project have been finalised and arrangements for the construction of quarters have been made. One block has been laid out. Work orders have been issued for the construction of 150 staff quarters; further 120 quarters and a Field Hostel are to be started shortly.

Where quarry faces have been located detailed investigations are in progress.

The main road and rail communications to Farakka and the left afflux bund have been completed. The National Highway from Calcutta on the one bank and from Khajurighat to Malda on the other are already in use. Transport facilities have been extended by the railway authorities and materials have started moving to Farakka Station.

(b) and (c). No insurmountable difficulty is known or anticipated. Bottlenecks and obstacles to progress will be minimized by preplanning to the extent possible.

12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.

CRASHING OF IAF DAKOTA IN NAGALAND

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): Sir, under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

The crashing of an IAF Dakota in Nagaland.

Mr. Speaker: I may inform the House that I have got many notices on this matter from a number of Members—Shri Hem Barua, Shri P. K. Chakraverti, Shri S. M. Banerjee and Shri Raghunath Singh on the same subject. I have put in the name that I got first.

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): Mr. Speaker, Sir Government regret to inform the House that on the 7th of May, 1962

at about 11-35 hours in Nagaland, a Dakota aircraft of the Indian Air Force, while on a supply dropping mission as part of normal duties, crashed. The aircraft belongs to the squadron based at Jorhat. The air crew consisting of four Air Force personnel and four ejection crew of Army Other Ranks, all the eight personnel on board were killed. The air crew were fully experienced in flying in that area. The pilot himself was posted to this squadron on the 26th of December, 1961 and has had about 2,009 hours of flying experience—if I may interpolate here, this is very considerable. The cause of the accident has not yet been ascertained. A court of enquiry has been ordered in accordance with the usual Air Force rules.

Until the enquiry is completed and the report is received it is not possible to provide any other details about this accident or its probable reasons. The extent of damage to Service property is the loss of the aircraft, as far as known at present. It has not been ascertained whether there has been any loss of civilian life or property, but the enquiries will cover this aspect also. The next of kin of the deceased Service personnel have been informed.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): Sir, I sent a Short Notice Question on this also.

Mr. Speaker: That will be taken up in due course.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the spot at which this aircraft unhappily crashed has been located and whether our Air Force personnel have been able to establish contact with the spot there so as to rescue the dead bodies and the properties and all that?

Shri Krishna Menon: A helicopter tried to reach this place, but it was not immediately possible because of the turbulence of the weather. The House will appreciate the fact that these are very risky operations essen-

tial for the maintenance of troops in this difficult area. There are mountain pockets and, what are called, downward currents—that is to say, the aircraft not only meets the forward current but it is pushed down, and even if it is at a height it may just as well come down. I am sorry it is one of those unfortunate risks which face our Service personnel—I am not saying it in a spirit of callousness; Government regret it, but there is no means of escaping these unfortunate possibilities.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the fact that the weather at that particular time was inclement and it was dangerous was brought to the notice of the flying crew by any weather station there or anything like that, or they flew in spite of the fact that they knew that there was danger ahead of them?

Shri Krishna Menon: There are well considered and well established procedures in regard to when an aircraft may take off, in what condition the aircraft should be and so on. It would be wrong for me to give further details when a court of inquiry is proceeding. It is one of the matters that will be enquired into, whether anybody had been negligent. There is no reason to think so on the information received. Even that statement, perhaps, may be a little more than one should make. There is—not a judicial—an enquiry with judicial form that is going on. One of the questions that will be asked is whether any unnecessary risks were taken and if risks were taken, whether they were necessary. If supply dropping was necessary for the troops over there, the Air Force must take risks. That is part of the service requirement.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Because of bad weather, as during air-dropping there had been one or two more minor accidents in this area, I want to know what special steps have been taken to see that air-dropping work is done very effective-

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]
ly and without any risk, and whether something has been devised.

Shri Krishna Menon: All steps taken in these areas are special in the sense that every possible precaution is taken to keep the aircraft in good condition and no aircraft can take off unless they satisfy those conditions. Inexperienced pilots do not go here. But, no precaution can be taken against turbulence of the weather or the nature of the terrain. If, unfortunately, the country is involved in military operations in these areas, there is no question of avoiding it.

12.11 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE INDIAN TELEGRAPH ACT

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Rules under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885:—

- (i) The Indian Telegraph (Second Amendment) Rules, 1961, published in Notification No. S.O. 492, dated the 4th March, 1961.
- (ii) The Indian Telegraph (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1351, dated the 4th November, 1961.
- (iii) The Indian Telegraph (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 1961, published in Notification No. S.O. 3020, dated the 23rd December, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-83/62].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE (DEVELOPMENT AND WAREHOUSING) CORPORATIONS ACT

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramalah): On behalf of Shri S. K. Dey, I beg to lay

on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications:—

- (i) G.S.R. 592, dated the 28th April, 1962, issued under section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing) Corporations Act, 1956.
- (ii) Notification No. G.S.R. 593, dated the 28th April, 1962, issued under section 10 of the Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing) Corporations Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-84/62].

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORT OF THE ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Statement of Accounts and Audit Report of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 1959-60, under sub-section (4) of section 18 of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-85/62.]

12.12 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

Mr. Speaker: We take up General Discussion of the Budget. Out of twenty hours, four hours and forty-five minutes have been taken up already. Fifteen hours and fifteen minutes remain.

Shri Morarka (Jhunjhunu): Mr. Speaker, once every year, on this very important occasion, Members of this House and the public outside get a chance to pass their verdict on the performance of the Government and examine the Government's policies, particularly financial, economic and fiscal. More often than not the Finance Minister, as the Government spokesman, receives brickbats and