

Acquisition of Land near Borjhar Airport, Gauhati

384. Shri Dhireswar Kalita: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry have acquired some thousand acres of land near Borjhar airport (Gauhati) to widen the military airfield;

(b) if so, the amount of compensation to be paid to the displaced peasants;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the peasants in this regard; and

(d) whether Government have any plan to give alternative land to the peasants and early compensation to them?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). About 715.67 acres of land was requisitioned for the development of Gauhati airfield. The land has not yet been acquired. In the meantime, initial compensation amounting to Rs. 1,33,617.25 has been paid to the owners concerned. In addition, annual rental of Rs. 1,18,532.90 is being paid regularly to the owners concerned where the assessment of the rent has been made by the concerned authority of the Government of Assam.

(c) Some representations were received from the owners concerned for early payment of rent and compensation for their lands.

(d) There is no plan to provide alternative land to the owners. The cost of land will be paid to them when it is acquired.

I. A. F. Plane accident

385. Shri Dhireswar Kalita: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 22nd February, 1966 an I.A.F. Toofani crashed at Borjhar (Gauhati) Airport;

(b) if so, the cause of the accident;

(c) the number of people dead and those injured;

(d) whether Government have received any representation claiming compensation on behalf of people who died and those injured; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to pay compensation?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). The attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4978 in the House on 9th May, 1966.

(c) Besides the pilot, seven civilians were killed and 14 civilians injured.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The matter is under consideration of the Government. In the meantime, an *ex-gratia* interim relief of Rs. 500/- has been granted to the next-of-kin of each of the deceased civilians. As regards the deceased IAF Officer, a sum of Rs. 750/- being 75 per cent of the family gratuity, as admissible under the rules, has been paid to the next-of-kin, pending finalisation of the pension claim.

New Government Companies

386. Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Manubhai Amersey:
Shri D. N. Patodia:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up two new Government Companies for running an electronics production unit and operation of certain uranium mines;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) the total expenditure involved on those schemes?