

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Crimes in Aeroplanes

*1109. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 514 on the 26th November, 1963 and state:

(a) whether Government of India have completed the study of an international convention on crimes occurring on board the aeroplanes;

(b) if so, whether India has decided to sign that convention; and

(c) the important features of the said convention?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) to (c). No, Sir, the Convention is still under consideration of Government.

Rural Reconstruction

*1111. { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations and observations made at the Afro-Asian Conference on rural reconstruction held at Kuala Lumpur in the third week of February, 1964; and

(b) the action being taken in the light of the same?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). The report of the Conference has not yet been received. Such action as is found necessary will be taken after the report has been received and examined.

Survey of Water Resources

*1113. **Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of American specialists has since arrived in India

to survey land and water resources of the country;

(b) the exact purpose of the survey to be undertaken by the team; and

(c) the name of the sponsoring authority of this survey and the terms on which the team will undertake the survey?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) The terms of reference of the Team are:

- (i) to review present policies affecting watershed management, dam construction, and management of present water distribution and drainage system within a watershed;
- (ii) to determine adequacy of planning and implementation under present policy and management in watershed and catchment areas;
- (iii) to evaluate the qualification of present organisations to plan, implement and carry to completion projects within a watershed; and
- (iv) to make recommendations outlining comprehensive land and water management requirements to conserve and maximize water and land resources.

(c) The Team has been sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development in India at their own cost.

Diversion of a Chartered Dakota Plane from Dum Dum to Bagdogra

*1120. **Shri Swell:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a chartered Dakota plane carrying newsmen from Delhi to Garo Hills was diverted from Dum Dum Airport

to Bagdogra on the 27th March, 1964; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Mohiuddin):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A charter flight involving overflying Pakistan territory can be operated only with prior permission of the Pakistan authorities for overflying East Pakistan. Since it had to be operated at short notice, the Indian Airlines Corporation felt that it would not be possible to obtain prior permission of the Civil Aviation authorities in Pakistan. It was thereoperated from Delhi *via* Bagdogra to Gauhati.

Cargo Vessel from Poland

*1121. { Shri A. V. Raghavan:
Shri Pottekkatt:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Rajdeo Singh:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has contracted to buy four modern cargo vessels from the Centromor Organisation of Poland; and

(b) if so, when the vessels will be delivered?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The vessels are scheduled to be delivered on the 31st March, 1966, 31st May, 1966, 15th July, 1966 and 31st August, 1966.

Potato Crop

*1122. **Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a widespread epidemic has damaged nearly half the potato crop of West Bengal;

(b) whether the total loss due to crop failure is estimated to be about Rs. 20 crores;

(c) whether the State Government of West Bengal approached the Central Government for import of suitable chemicals for saving the standing crop; and

(d) whether the Central Government declined to help the State Government in this?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) No official intimation has been received from the State Government.

(b) No estimates of damage have been received.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. During 1963, however, the State Government requested for augmenting supplies of raw materials of imported fungicides; and compared to 1962-63, a substantially larger amount of foreign exchange had been allocated during 1963-64 to the trade for the formulations of the required chemicals. To meet the immediate requirements of the Government of West Bengal, foreign exchange has been allotted for this purpose to the State Government and efforts are being made for obtaining an additional allocation.

Import of Burmese Rice

*1124. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 731 on the 24th March, 1964 and state:

(a) the cost at which 1,50,000 tons of Burmese rice is being purchased;

(b) the foreign exchange that will be required on this import; and