

before that or the month before that month, whether there has been any effective work done by these mobile police patrols. Has the Government any report?

Shri G. B. Pant: So far as the figures are concerned, they are the result of what the male factors and not what the mobile bands do. But, so far as I am aware, there has been some improvement. The population of Delhi is increasing every day and we have to take account of the circumstances in which the police has to function.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Is it a fact that in 3 months there have been 14 murders and there is a general increase of crime in Delhi? What positive steps have been taken, apart from this mobile police patrolling, to check this?

Shri G. B. Pant: I do not know whether there has been any increase in crime. I do not quite accept that statement. But the police are vigilant and some other steps are being taken so that the Superintendent of Police may go in the night and see how the patrols and others are functioning and also visit the police stations to see if everything is going on well.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wanted to know what additional measures are being taken. The Hon. Minister said that the Police Superintendent himself goes out at night.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: How many mobile patrols are operating in Delhi? Are they all equipped with wireless vans which communicate with the Central Control Room?

Shri G. B. Pant: I assume that they are but I am not in a position to make a definite statement.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Sir, 982 is an important question—Unidentified plane over Indian territory near Goa. I request it may be replied to.

Shri D. C. Sharma: It is a very important question.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Minister is willing that question may be answered.

गोष्ठा के निकट भारतीय क्षेत्र पर अज्ञात विमान

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*१६२. { डा० राम सुभग सिंह :
श्री बी० चं० शर्मा :

क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) यह सच है कि जून, १९६० के अन्तिम सप्ताह में गोष्ठा के निकट भारतीय क्षेत्र पर एक अज्ञात विमान उड़ता हुआ देखा गया था;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि पहले भी चार बार ऐसे विमान भारतीय क्षेत्र पर उड़ते हुए देखे गये हैं; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति को रोकने के लिये सावधानी के तौर पर क्या उपाय किये गये हैं ?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such planes have been seen flying over Indian territory since the third week of January, 1960.

(c) Such measures as are possible are taken and vigilance is maintained. It is not in the public interest to state the measures adopted or contemplated.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Fire in the Survey of India, Dehra Dun

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S.N.Q. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
No. 9. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri B. C. Majhi:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to inquire into the fires in the

Survey of India, Dehra Dun has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the chief features of that report; and

(c) whether the Committee has recommended that those arsons were caused to hide account discrepancies?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 54]

(c) The Committee came to the conclusion that the fires were not due to electrical short circuiting, or auto-combustion or other accidental causes. There is thus a presumption of arson, but this can be known definitely only when the Police have submitted their report.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: By what time is the final report of the police expected?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I cannot say when the police will submit the report. We have asked for the report as soon as possible.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the estimated value of the photographic equipment and survey instruments which have been lost in these two fires?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The items affected were mainly papers, stationery article, office furniture, paper plates, printing paper, etc. and the book value of the total loss is Rs. 5.67 lakhs including the value of the building and the electrical installations. This valuation does not take into account the depreciation.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या यह सत्य है कि आज से चार वर्ष पहले, सन् १९५६ में यू० पी० के अकाउंटेंट जनरल ने इस बात की ओर ध्यान दिलाया था कि वहां के स्टोर्स विभाग में बड़ी गड़बड़ी है ? क्या आप के खयाल में

तब से कोई कार्रवाई की गई या रोक थाम की गई ?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The hon. Member has given me information and I shall certainly follow it up.

Shri S. C. Mamanta: How many employees had already been suspended? It is also a fact that some who were not in charge of that department had been suspended?

Shri Humayun Kabir: A departmental enquiry was held and eight members of the staff have been placed under suspension pending completion of investigations into the cause of the two fires.

Shrimati Ha Falchoudhuri: From the statement I find that the existing fire arrangements are of little value and that the security guards are physically unfit—that is the finding of the committee. Considering the fact that this office contains such valuable documents, how this not discovered before or not known to the Government before?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The Government certainly did not know all this before. If they had known these things would not have taken place. Steps are being taken as soon as these matters are discovered.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that after the second fire military guard was posted? May I know why, after the first fire, it was not posted?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The first fire took place on the 6th of June and it was probably not certain whether it was an accident or not. But when on the 10th of June there was another fire, the possibility of accident was ruled out and necessary steps were taken.

Shri Kamal Singh: It is mentioned here in the statement that the stores have been kept in a haphazard manner and the persons in charge of

stores were not very adept in keeping the papers and documents. In view of the fact that this building has been in existence for a long time and the stores have been kept there, since probably, 1920, how is it that it came to the notice of the Government for the first time now that the papers were kept in this manner? Why were not timely steps taken to keep them in a proper manner?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I cannot answer for what happened 20 years ago. As soon as this was brought to our notice, two enquiries have already been held since the fire took place. There was a departmental enquiry by the Surveyor General and I appointed a special committee consisting of the Joint Secretary in my Ministry, the Fire Adviser to the Defence Ministry, the Executive Engineer of Dehra Dun division and a representative of the Chief Inspector of Explosives of India to go into the whole question. Further, we have also taken action to appoint a review committee to go into the whole matter and for this we have asked for help under the Colombo Plan for the service of the Director General of Ordnance Surveys of the United Kingdom.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether any discrepancy in accounts was detected either before or after the two fires and if so what is the amount of discrepancy so detected?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The court of enquiry set up by the Surveyor General establishes that there was unaccounted excess of various types of paper but the exact amount cannot be given since the paper has been burnt.

Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav: From the recommendations of the committee it appears that many of the members of the security guard are physically unfit. May I know what is the number of the guards and how many of them are physically unfit?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I ask for notice to answer that question. We have asked for the proper medical

examination of every one of the guards. Four of them are undergoing a course of training at the Fire Fighting Training Centre of the Ministry of Defence.

श्री भक्त वरुण : व अगस्त को इसी सम्बन्ध में एक प्रश्न का जवाब देते हुए माननीय मंत्री जी ने बतलाया था कि इन दो अग्निकांडों से ५ लाख ६७ हजार ६० का नुकसान हुआ है। लेकिन बहुत से लोगों का अनुमान है कि नुकसान इस से कहीं ज्यादा हुआ। कुछ लोगों का अनुमान है कि १ करोड़ का नुकसान है, जिस में १८ लाख ६० के आर्टिकल इस्टीमेट्स ही थे तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कोई छान-बीन की गई है कि कितना नुकसान इस में हुआ है ?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I do not know where the hon. Member got the figure of a crore. I have certainly not received it from the committee. The figure that has been given to me is that the total loss is Rs. 5.67 lakhs according to the book value. I think the real value will be much less because a good deal of the photographic plates were out of date and therefore, if depreciation is allowed on them, the amount will be less than the amount I have given.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether there is stock-taking every year and whether it is a fact that at the last stock-taking severe discrepancies were found and this fire was meant to square it up?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I have already answered that. I have said that the Surveyor General had established that there was unaccounted excess. That was as a result of stock-taking.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that tanks which are part and parcel of the fire fighting equipment were not repaired for a long time and the CPWD was delaying it?

Shri Humayun Kabir: There are sometimes delays. But now, as I

have said, we are taking action and four water tanks of 15000 gallons capacity and two water tanks of 10000 gallons capacity are going to be constructed in 17 Eastern Canal Road. I have taken up with the CPWD the general question of expediting the construction programme of the Survey of India.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Raw Materials for Rourkela

*975. **Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production is hampered in Rourkela Steel Plant for want of raw materials; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove this handicap?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). Production has not suffered on account of raw materials except that lately there has been some paucity of coking coal and the coke oven batteries were not working to their optimum capacity. Every effort is being made to build up sufficient stocks of coal and ensure continuous flow of iron ore.

I.A.F. Liberator Plane

*977. **Shri P. K. Deo:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether an I.A.F. Liberator plane located 100 fishermen in 23 canoes helplessly drifting in the sea off Rameshwaram island in the third week of May last;

(b) what steps were taken to rescue them; and

(c) how many were rescued?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The aircraft sent the position of the drifting canoes, on wireless, to the

Directorate of Fisheries, Madras, who made rescue arrangements.

(c) All, numbering about 106.

Lapse of Life Insurance Policies

*978. **Shri Anrudh Sinha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Life Insurance policies booked by the L.I.C. since 1956 have lapsed;

(b) if so, the percentage of policies lapsed;

(c) the causes thereof; and

(d) the steps, if any, taken to improve the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Churcha and Kotma Mines

*979. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri Nek Ram Negi:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project reports regarding the Churcha and Kotma Coal Mines have been considered by the National Coal Development Corporation;

(b) whether these have been accepted by Government; and

(c) what is the total estimated cost of expenditure on these projects?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The project report for Churcha awaits the completion of detailed prospecting in the area.

The National Coal Development Corporation have decided not to go forward with the Kotma project as the coal would be of inferior quality (Grade II) and the demand for it may not be sufficient. The matter will be