

Collision of Jet Fighters

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*56. { Shri P. C. Borooah;
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two jet fighters of the Indian Air Force collided near palam Air Port on the 17th January, 1962 while rehearsing for Republic Day, involving the death of two officers of the I.A.F.;

(b) if so, what was the cause of the accident; and

(c) what loss of property was involved in the accident?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mid-air collision.

(c) Service property valued at Rs. 10,36,628.16 nP.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether any court of inquiry was appointed to determine the cause of the accident? If so, what was its finding?

Sardar Majithia: Inquiry was held. The aircraft were burnt very extensively with the result that we could not come to a very clear finding about it.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : इस दुर्घटना में जिन अफसरों की मृत्यु हो गई उन के परिवार के लोगों को मुआविजा या पेंशन देने की क्या व्यवस्था की गई है ?

सरदार मजीठिया : एक तो ग्रुप कैप्टन शाह थे जिनकी मृत्यु हो गई। डैथ ग्रेचुएटी उनकी बेवा बीवी को दी गई है और बाकी फौर्स जो हैं वे पुर करके कंट्रोलर आफ डिफेंस एकाउण्ट्स को भेज दिये गये हैं हैं और बाकी कार्यवाही वह पूरी करेंगे।

Shri P. C. Borooah: Is any posthumous award going to be given?

Additional Increment to Section Officers

*57. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the merger of Grades II and III of Section Officers of the Government of India scheme for giving one additional increment to Section Officers of the Central Secretariat after they cross the pay of Rs. 500 and 700 is under the consideration of the Government of India;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) when it is likely to be implemented?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):

(a) to (c). A representation has been received from one of the associations representing the Section Officers' Grade of the Central Secretariat Service for providing a substantial increase in pay in the 7th year in the revised scale of pay prescribed for that grade and the matter is under consideration. No decision has yet been arrived at in the matter.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: May I know whether there was some decision or policy of Government some time ago that if the index rose over 115 and remained there for one year, the question of revision of dearness allowance and so forth would be considered. The index has been over 115 for the past one year.

Shri Datar: That is entirely a different matter. This is a question of getting some more pay after 6 years by way of increment. It has nothing to do with the question the hon. Lady Member has raised.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Of course, increment in pay is there. But there is dearness allowance also and that is inter-connected with the rise in the cost of living.

Shri Datar: If the hon. Member tables a separate question, I will get the information and give it.

Copper and Gold Deposits

*58. **Shri Agadi:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 432 on the 30th November, 1961 and state:

(a) the results of the Copper Mines Drilling operations at Kalyadi in Hassan District, Mysore State;

(b) whether the Government of Mysore has finally considered and investigated regarding the re-starting of the Kappatagudda Range Gold Mines in Dharwar District; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The first bore hole was closed at 141.12 metres. The second bore hole is in progress. The assay results of 51 core samples from the first bore hole have so far been received from the Government of Mysore. These results show a 6.7 metres zone at 60.04 to 66.74 metres depth with an average of 2.01 per cent copper in the first bore hole.

(b) The Government of India have no information.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 59—Shri Supakar is absent. Question No. 60.—Shri Hem Raj is also absent.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : मुझे उन्होंने इसे पूछने का अधिकार दिया है ।

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rourkela Steel Plant

*44. **Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any breakdown of the rolling mills in Rourkela Steel Plant during the last six months; and

(b) the duration of this breakdown and the amount of loss involved?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). At about 4.15 P.M. on the 6th December, 1961, the wobbler and coupling of the top spindle of the Blooming and Slabbing Mill of the Rourkela Steel Works broke bringing the operation of the mill to an immediate stand still. Later examination revealed that the wobbler of the bottom spindle had also cracked. The spare parts required to recommission the mill were not available at Rourkela although orders for them had been placed in April & July, 1961. The spares were obtained from West Germany towards the end of December and were fitted into the mill. The slabbing mill was recommissioned on the 1st January, 1962.

The mill was, thus, out of operation for 25 days. If there had been no breakdown, the slabbing mill could during these 25 days, have rolled about 28,800 metric tons of slabs.

A committee has been appointed to investigate the reasons for the breakdown. This committee is expected to submit its report shortly.

Ahju Canal in Himachal Pradesh

45. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sanction has been given for the construction of a Kuhl, namely, Ahju Canal in Tehsil Jogindernagar of District Mandi in Himachal Pradesh; and