

Shri S. N. Das: In view of the fact that the Central Government is going to contribute a huge amount, it is necessary for us to know the information.

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I can give the informal figures that we have collected from the Planning Commission. There is an amount of Rs. 6.3 lakhs including Rs. 1.25 lakhs for 1951-52, and Rs. 1.63 lakhs for 1952-53 that has been set apart under the Five Year Plan.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why should this question be asked? I do not know how it crept in. Hon. Members will kindly see from the Bihar reports.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार में मलेरिया से कितने आदमी मरते हैं ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Information is being gathered from the Bihar Government. That is what was said.

DISTRESS IN TEHRI-GARHWAL

*2166. **Shrimati Kamlendu Mati Shah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that on account of the complete failure of crops due to failure of rain there is distress among the inhabitants of Tehri-Garhwal;

(b) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have asked the Government of India for aid in the matter; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government have so far taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Some press reports about the scarcity conditions prevailing in Tehri-Garhwal, have come to the notice of the Government. The State Government are making enquiries.

(b) and (c). The question does not arise.

Shrimati Kamlendu Mati Shah: Is it possible that the grain can be distributed free or on loan there as the people there have no purchasing power?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That may be so, but we have not received any reports.

AIR SERVICE BETWEEN BOMBAY AND AURANGABAD

*2167. **Shri H. G. Vaishnav:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the reasons for discontinuing the Air service between Bombay and Aurangabad from 1st April, 1953?

(b) Are there any prospects of re-introducing the same in the near future?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The traffic over this route is mainly tourist and seasonal, lasting only for about six months of the year. The service was discontinued, when there was a fall in traffic.

(b) The nationalised corporation will consider the possibility of resuming the service if there is an adequate demand for it.

Shri H. G. Vaishnav: Was it profitable as long as it was running?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We were getting on an average an utilization of 27 per cent. of the capacity only. Therefore, we cannot say it was satisfactory from the economic point of view.

Shri H. G. Vaishnav: Is there any proposal to have air services between Bombay and Hyderabad which may halt at Aurangabad?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This will be considered by the nationalised corporation.

Shri Heda: What was the average number of passengers between Bombay and Aurangabad?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am sorry I will not be able to give that. I can give the percentage of the traffic.

ACCIDENT IN LAXMI PRASAD MICA MINES

*2170. **Shri Nanadas:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there was an accident in Laxmi Prasad Mica Mines near Gudur on the 23rd April, 1953 resulting in injuries to three workers?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for the accident?

(c) What steps are being taken for the payment of compensation to the injured workers?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes; four workers were injured in the accident.