

the displaced persons or they were to do the reclamation work themselves?

Shri A. P. Jain: Reclaimed land was given. But 'reclamation' is rather a vague term. There is initial reclamation. Then there is full reclamation. Full reclamation takes some time.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Is it not a fact that there are many refugees living in the Howrah Station for over two months, in very great misery?

Shri A. P. Jain: This is quite different from the question about certain desertions that took place in Orissa.

Shri Meghnad Saha rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

SERVICE DAKOTA

*953. **Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a service dakota which took off from Mahanbari Airfield on the 17th February, 1953 has failed to return to base;

(b) if so, whether any search has been made for the missing dakota;

(c) the number of passengers in the dakota and the loss of property through such mishap; and

(d) the cost of the dakota and number of machines fitted in it?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes

(c) The following were aboard the plane at the time of the accident and were killed:

- (1) Flt. Lt. T. V. Smith (Pilot).
- (2) Plt. Off. S. B. Subramaniam (Navigator)
- (3) Sgt. C. M. Joseph (Signaller Air)
- (4) Mr. B. R. Srinivasan (H.A.L. Tech.)
- (5) L/NK Sabitomonari
- (6) RFN Hrangkila Lushai
- (7) RFN Ngala Lushai
- (8) RFN Chattar Bahadur Gurung
- (9) RFN Kishan Bahadur Pun.
- (10) RFN Kharka Bahadur Damai

Assam Rifles personnel

A court of inquiry has been ordered. The actual loss of property will be known after its report is received.

(d) The assessed value is Rupees 3,32,800. The Dakota was fitted with two engines.

Shri Ganpati Ram: May I know, Sir, what steps have been taken by Government to avert such disasters?

Shri Satish Chandra: A Court of Enquiry has been set up to investigate into the causes of the accident and will submit its report in a few days. Its recommendations will be carefully considered by the Government, and whatever steps are necessary will be taken.

Shri Joachim Alva: Are planes properly checked before the pilots take off, especially as in a recent crash in December last in Jodhpur it was found that the parts were not properly fitted and flew out after pilot Lenin De Souza ascended, and the plane crashed?

Shri Satish Chandra: This particular aircraft when it left Mahanbari air field was in perfectly good condition and was tested before it took off.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know, Sir, whether these accidents are generally due to the incapacity or inability of our pilot officers to land the planes properly?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Await the report in this particular case. The hon. Member is casting an aspersion on all the pilot officers.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that there have been quite a number of air crashes in this area, whether Government is going to set up an enquiry as to why this is happening?

Shri Satish Chandra: Sir, there have been two cases in the last.....

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Three.

Shri Satish Chandra: This is the second one as far as I know. One Dakota crashed a few months ago—about four or six months ago. In the previous case as well as in this case the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry are being or will be looked into and will be implemented. There is not a larger incidence of accidents to I. A. F. aircraft in this area as compared to that of civilian aircraft—as is the general impression. The service aircraft have comparatively to do more hours of flying in that area.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, apart from the precautions as to the fitness of the plane, whether the fitness of the pilot officer is taken note of?

Shri Satish Chandra: Sir, our pilots are very well trained. They are much better trained than civilian aircraft pilots.

Shri B. S. Murthy: My question is this: whether in this particular case the pilot was in a fit condition to take the plane?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Please await the report.

Shri G. S. Singh: Was this aircraft on a training flight or was it on some particular mission?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The House will appreciate that nobody is more interested in the safety and security of pilots than the pilots, the Air Force and the Defence Ministry. They are interested in their own safety, and the Defence Ministry, of course, is very much interested. And because of these one or two accidents in these eastern hills, not only a normal enquiry will be made, but very special enquiries are made. This is a difficult terrain. I had flown there myself. There one cannot fly too high; one has to fly low and in between the clouds. As far as I remember, these flights were for air-dropping supplies.

RE-ORGANISATION AND REVISED SCALES OF PAY IN TRIPURA

*954. **Shri Biren Dutt:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State employees of Tripura will get reduced scales of pay according to the State Employees Re-organisation Scheme; and

(b) whether their association has made a representation not to implement this Re-organisation Scheme?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) No.

(b) No representation of the kind has come to notice.

Shri Nanadas: Is it a fact, Sir, that by the introduction of the reorganisation the annual increment of some of the State employees will be reduced from Re. 1/- to -4/-?

Dr. Katju: I want notice of that question.

RAIN RESEARCH UNIT

*958. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state

whether it is a fact that Government are considering the establishment of a "Rain Research Unit" in Delhi?

(b) If so, what will be the main functions of the Unit?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) A proposal to establish a Rain Research Unit at Delhi is under the consideration of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

(b) The functions of the Unit will be conduct of research and planned experiments on the seeding of clouds, observation of subsequent behaviour of such seeded clouds and detailed assessment of the results of seeding experiments.

Shri Buchhikotaiah: May I know whether the Government has any intention of establishing similar Rain Units in other parts of the country?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Not yet, Sir.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know whether the researches carried out in other parts regarding rain are encouraging for the establishment of these Units?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The experiments so far carried out in other parts of the world are still in an experimental stage; they are not to our satisfaction.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether the research that has been carried out in Yadhavpur will be taken advantage of and whether this research Unit is going to continue on the basis of the findings of that Unit?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The experiments that were carried out in Bengal by Dr. Banerjee have also been taken into consideration and he is also included in all these works.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is the Government aware, Sir, that in Germany artificial rain is being given for vast areas?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is giving information.

Shri G. S. Singh: Has any practical experiment been carried out?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We have not yet established the Unit, Sir, although in the past some attempt at practical work was done in this connection.