

(b) The annual rate of interest on 7-year and 12-year National Savings Certificates held to maturity is 3.57 per cent. and 4.16 per cent. respectively, and that on 10 Year Treasury Savings Deposit Certificates is 3½ per cent.

(c) The main reasons are that the interest on the National Savings and Treasury Savings Deposit Certificates is exempt from income tax, facilities for premature encashment although with reduced interest exist and encashments can be made at fixed and pre-determined prices which are not subject to market fluctuations.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Is it not the policy of the Government to tap savings in the countryside?

Shri M. C. Shah: We are just trying to have small savings campaigns all through the country.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will Government kindly see that the rate of interest allowed for small savings is identical with that allowed in the case of big loans?

Shri M. C. Shah: The rate of interest of the National Savings Certificates is favourable than the rate of interest allowed for loans, taking into consideration the other advantages attached.

Shri T. N. Singh: When State Governments float loans individually, with a view to avoiding any disparity of rates of interest offered, are the Central Government in a position to regulate their floatation?

Shri M. C. Shah: Normally there is no great disparity in the rate of interest offered. Certainly, the Central Government have to sanction the floatation of loans, which they do in consultation with the Reserve Bank.

NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

*1086. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have established laboratories in Bombay and Cochin for Naval Research;

(b) if so, when they were started; and

(c) whether they are completely manned by Indian technical personnel?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) and (b). Laboratories have been established both at Bombay and Cochin with effect from September 1952 and July 1952 respectively, to undertake research and associated scientific work for the Indian Navy.

(c) The laboratories are manned by Indian technical personnel.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, what is the total amount spent on the establishment of these laboratories?

Shri Tyagi: Sir, the laboratories have neither been fully manned, nor have they been fully equipped. They are in the process of being completed. Nevertheless, they have started their work and more investment has to be made. I have not got the exact figure of the total amount required to be spent.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether more laboratories will be started hereafter in other parts of India?

Shri Tyagi: That pertains to future. I am only dealing with the present. There is no scheme just now to start any other laboratory. But if need be it shall be started.

Mr. Speaker: The question-hour is over.

Short Notice Question and Answer

AIR ACCIDENT NEAR NAGPUR

S.N.Q. 7. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Madras-bound night plane crashed

near Nagpur on the night of 11th December, 1953;

(b) the number of passengers, pilots and other employees travelling therein;

(c) the number of deaths;

(d) the reason of the crash; and

(e) the loss sustained by Government and by the public?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir. The accident occurred at 03-26 hours on the 12th December, 1953.

(b) Four Members of the crew and 10 passengers.

(c) 13.

(d) and (e). The Government have appointed a Court of Enquiry to hold an investigation into the accident and the cause of the crash and the extent of loss will be known after the Court has held its investigation and drawn its conclusions.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the plane was duly examined when it took off from Nagpur?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It obtained its certificate of daily inspection at Bombay at 22 hours the same night.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Is there any truth in the statement that the pilot was over-drunk?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No, Sir. No such report has come to us. As a matter of fact, this question, if at all it arises, shall be examined by the Court of Enquiry.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Has the pilot made any statement and, if so, what according to him is the cause of the accident?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The statement will be recorded by the Court of Enquiry which has been duly appointed already.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Do I take it that no statement has yet been taken from the pilot?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No statement has yet been taken by the Court of Enquiry.

Shri Kasliwal: How many Dakotas of this type which crashed are in service today?

Shri Raj Bahadur: About seventy Dakotas are in service today.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Minister stated that the statement will be taken by the Court of Enquiry. May I know whether the officers who went to Nagpur on that day went simply to see the site or to ask for certain information?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Such accidents are enquired into by a regular Court of Enquiry under the rules, and no person other than that Court is entitled to take such statements. And even if people put informal questions or elicit any information it cannot be taken cognizance of because that might pre-judge the issue or amount to a contempt of the Court which has been duly appointed.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it true that every pilot has to undergo a test once in three months, the test being that he goes up with one engine off, and that this pilot had not undergone this test for the last three months for one reason or another; and if this test is not put into action, will Government see that the officers who are responsible for this are punished or jailed?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member assumes certain things and makes suggestions. His enquiry is whether the particular pilot had not undergone the test.

Shri Joachim Alva: He can answer the first part.

Shri Raj Bahadur: No such allegation has yet been made to us about that particular pilot. If any such statement is made it will be duly enquired into.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या हम कोर्ट आफ इन्वॉयरी के मॅम्बरों का नाम जान सकते हैं, जिसको काम दिया गया है ?

Shri Raj Bahadur: (1) Shri N. S. Lokur, Chairman, Railway Rates Tribunal and Chairman, Air Transport Licensing Board, (2) Shri M. G. Pradhan, Deputy Director-General, Civil Aviation, and (3) Capt. K. Viswanath of Air India International. The first is the court and the other two are assessors.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know the age of the Dakota and the number of flying hours it has done?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As a matter of fact the number of hours are attributable to the engine, which it has already completed. Since the last C.F.A. overhaul the left engine has done 434 hours and the right engine 256 hours.

श्री राधेलाल व्यास : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या अभी तक कोर्ट आफ इन्वॉयरी ने काम शुरू नहीं किया और अगर शुरू नहीं किया तो कब से शुरू करने जा रही हैं ?

श्री राज बहादुर : कोर्ट आफ इन्वॉयरी की घोषणा कल की गयी है और वह तुरन्त अपना काम आरम्भ कर देगी ।

Mr. Speaker: I think the matters may now be left to the Court of Enquiry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DISTRICT SAILORS', SOLDIERS' AND AIRMEN'S BOARDS

*1059. **Shri Punnoose:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the staff of the District Sailors', Soldiers'

and Airmen's Boards in Uttar Pradesh have not been paid their dues for the years 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(b) Is it a fact that no increments have been granted to the Secretaries of District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards in Uttar Pradesh for the last six years?

(c) If so, what are the reasons for the inordinate delay in the payment of arrears of pay and increments?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) The staff of the D.S.S. & A. Boards in Uttar Pradesh have not been paid for three months of the financial year 1951-52 and for another three months of the financial year 1952-53.

(b) Yes.

(c) The expenditure on Boards is normally shared equally by the Centre and by the State Government. The Centre has paid its full share but the U.P. Government has not been able to defray more than a quarter of the total expenditure for financial reasons. The U.P. Government is of the view that the remaining quarter should be met from the U.P. Post War Services Reconstruction Fund, but the Trustees of that Fund regard this expenditure as *ultra vires* of the objects of the Fund. The matter is still under consideration.

WYNAD COLONY FOR EX-SERVICE-MEN

*1060. **Shri Punnoose:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state how many ex-servicemen were originally settled in the Wynad Ex-servicemen's colony in Madras State?

(b) How many of them have since left the colony?

(c) What are the reasons for their leaving the colony?

(d) What is the total amount spent by Government on the colony during the last five years and what is the amount spent on the administrative expenses?