

by the causes of an accidental flying over. An accidental flying over can be accidental. It takes but a minute or two minutes to fly a few miles, ten or twenty miles. An aircraft may go at 250 miles an hour or 300 miles an hour, and the slightest diversion may bring it. It may be quite an accident. But as I ventured to say if the accident happens to occur several times we suspect it is not an accident.

Shri Kamath: There have been innumerable land transgressions by Pakistan into Indian territory, but since when did air transgression by the Pakistan Air Force start?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no "since when" about it. As I said, these have occurred sometimes in the past few years across the border. Some of them may have been pure accidents, because it is very difficult for an aircraft flying to know exactly. In a minute they are across and over; any pilot will not know. This has happened sometimes in the last few years. As I said, if it happens several times running, then one suspects it is not an accident.

BOUNDARY DISPUTES

***219. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any communication has been received recently from the Pakistan authorities desiring to discuss the eight-year old boundary disputes between the two Punjab; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of our Government?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Was there a proposal by the Pakistan Government recently, and was a letter addressed to the Punjab Government that a conference be held to settle these disputes as early as possible?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The position is this. Ever since the Indo-Pakistan Agreement of 1948, the Financial

Commissioners of the two Punjab have been meeting from time to time to decide on issues which are already before them, but this question, I presume, refers to the agreement which was arrived at between our Home Minister and the Minister of the Interior of Pakistan some time in May last that all these questions should be taken up at one sitting. But before that the demarcations of the boundaries should have to be made, but that has not been done.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Was there a meeting scheduled to be held in December between the two Governments and is it a fact that it had to be postponed at the initiative of Pakistan?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am not aware of that. The Financial Commissioner of our Punjab and the Member of the Board of Revenue of West Pakistan are meeting on the 6th March on this matter.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are there any strips of territory on this border between the two Punjab where Pakistan has transgressed and taken possession of certain parts but has still not restored them to India up till now?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There are eleven major issues before the Financial Commissioners of the two Punjab.

COFFEE PLANTS

***220. Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to grow in any Experimental Station coffee plants of the varieties grown in Africa that "thrive near sea level on cheap land";

(b) if so, for how long and with what results have these experiments been tried; and

(c) which areas are considered suitable for this variety?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir; at the Coffee Research Station of the Coffee Board at Balehonnur.

(b) and (c). Seed materials have been imported since 1953 and the plants out of these are under field observation at the Research Station. It is too early to assess results or define suitable areas, where they could be grown.

Dr. Rama Rao: Since there seems to be a fair chance of developing this variety of coffee, have the Government tasted this variety?

Shri Karmarkar: The very testing is going on. We have planted them. As my hon. friend knows, coffee requires a little time to grow on an economic basis and a few years have to elapse. Therefore, we have planted these varieties and are testing them at our research station at Balehonnur—not tasting but testing.

Dr. Rama Rao: I wanted to know whether Government have tasted this coffee to see whether it is good coffee or not.

Shri Karmarkar: Government have not done so; I do not know whether my esteemed colleague has done so.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question. Shri Ibrahim. I think the hon. Member is absent.

COFFEE BOARD

***221. Shri Ibrahim:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the number of registered Coffee Planters who are members of the Coffee Board and who own estates to the extent of (i) 5 acres and less, (ii) between 5 and 50 acres and (iii) 100 acres and above?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 11.]

An Hon. Member: The questioner namely Shri Ibrahim, is absent. But the answer has been read out.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Very well: it has been read already.

FORWARD TRADING IN COTTON

***222. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the reactions of their action in suspending hedge trading in cotton on the forward market as well as on the industry and supply;

(b) whether they feel that there is need for the change in the policy; and

(c) if so, what is it?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c). The Forward Markets Commission were compelled to take the action that they did to safeguard the interests of all concerned. The decision of the East India Cotton Association in accordance with the advice given to them by the Forward Markets Commission is challenged in a Court of Law. Government do not think that there is any need for change in the policy.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Government have suspended forward trading in cotton to safeguard the interests of all concerned. May I know whether the ceiling prices of cotton had been reached at that time? May I know also in what way the interests of cotton-growers were safeguarded by suspending forward trading in cotton?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In the case of standard varieties of cotton, the floor is Rs. 495; that is for Jarilla; and the ceiling is about Rs. 800. So, the margin is a very big margin. The prices which were ruling at the time the Forward Markets Commission took action were well above Rs. 700, and Government are of the view that an increase of 40 per cent. on the floor price was a good enough safeguard for the grower.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: My question was to what extent the growers have been hit on account of the suspension of trading. What was the floor price of cotton in Amraoti or other cotton-growing centres at that time, and what is the price now?