

is taken to it. Therefore, I am not in a position to advise the hon. Minister. Hereafter, I will leave the discretion to him. If it is lengthy he need not read it. If it is very long he can lay it on the table of the House. He is not obliged to read every portion of it.

**Shri Datar:** May I read the rest to the House? I have no objection.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** There are only 10 or 15 lines you may read it.

**Shri Datar:** Circuits to Tinsukhia and Imphal were restored by the afternoon on the 15th, as the damage on Manipur Road-Mariani section was fairly extensive. All telegraph communications to places in the interior and railway telegraph and control circuits were also restored by the afternoon of the 15th.

The only Aeronautical Communication Stations affected were at the aerodromes at Jorhat and Kumbhirgram. However, there was no dislocation of the Aeronautical Radio facilities at Jorhat. At Kumbhirgram, where more serious damage was caused, the communications were restored by making emergency arrangements on the afternoon of the 14th March. By the morning of the 15th, all Aeronautical Radio facilities were functioning normally.

No damage to the Railway lines and the roads has so far been reported.

**Shri Amjad Ali:** May I ask one question, Sir?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The answer is sufficiently long.

**Shri Amjad Ali:** What was the extent of the fury of the gales and is it the information of the Government that one plane was involved in this or overtaken by the gale near Agartala and there was certain loss of lives?

**Shri Datar:** We have no information, Sir.

**Shri L. J. Singh:** Are Government aware of the fact, Sir, that more than 50 per cent. of the houses in the southern part of Manipur were blown off by the recent cyclone?

**Shri Datar:** All the information that has been received was fead by me just now. There is no further information.

**Shri L. J. Singh:** No mention was made about Manipur.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Further information is being collected.  
13 P.S.D.

**Shri Nambiar:** Sir, in view of the fact that there was so much havoc caused with loss of life, may I know the reason why the relief granted was up to an amount of Rs. 3,000 only?

**Shri Datar:** It is Rs. 3,000 in Bengal up to the time of wiring the information to us.

**Shri Amjad Ali:** What was the amount given in Assam, Sir?

**Shri Datar:** That figure has not been supplied to us.

**Shri Nambiar:** Was any relief sent from the Centre?

**Shri Datar:** If it is asked for we shall gladly send it.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question No. 79.

**Shri Matthen:** Sir, my question has been mutilated.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** If the hon. Member is not willing to have it in the mutilated form, I will pass to the next question.

**Shri Matthen:** No, Sir. Will he allow me to read that portion which has been deleted?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** No; only what is typed and placed before him.

#### URANIUM THORIUM PLANT

**II. Shri Matthen:** (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state why the proposed Uranium Thorium Plant is to be erected in Bombay Harbour Island?

(b) Did the Government consult the Travancore-Cochin Government before this decision was made?

(c) In view of the availability of the main raw material and other favourable factors, have Government considered the desirability of erecting the Plant in Alwaye or Cochin?

(d) Are Government aware of the need of erecting more factories in Travancore-Cochin in view of the great unemployment problem there?

**The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) to (d). A statement giving detailed information on the subject is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 52.]

**Shri Matthen:** I have read the reply, Sir. Was not the hon. Dy. Minister present when different reasons were adduced at the meeting of the N.R.

and S.R. Committee three days ago, e.g., lack of electricity and dearth of sulphuric acid and caustic soda as responsible for shifting that factory from Alwaye to Bombay?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** I was present in the meeting and the reasons given there are almost the same as have been stated in the answer.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister says the same reasons are there.

**Shri Matthen:** Did he point out then, Sir, that both electricity and sulphuric acid are in plenty in Alwaye and a new reason has been given now?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** I really do not understand, Sir, how this question arises. I am slightly connected with the matter, being in charge of the Atomic Energy Commission. After full consideration, they came to a decision. Now, how can we go into what was a suitable place for dealing with Uranium Plant, whether Alwaye or Bombay, and discuss the suitability in answer to a short notice question?

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know whether this factory is intended to process the residual cake left behind by the Rare Earths Factory at Alwaye?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know whether there is any other factory dealing with Rare Earth which produces the same stuff?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** So far as I know, there is not.

**Shri Punnoose:** Is it not advisable to have a factory to deal with these under favourable local conditions?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Hon. Members are forgetting the scope of questions. They are intended normally to elicit information. If they have any action to suggest and to raise discussion there are other means by which the matter may be raised.

**Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** May I know whether the Government of India intends to pay Messrs. Indian Rare Earths Ltd. any price for the residuary cake containing uranium and thorium hydroxide?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Messrs Indian Rare Earths Ltd. will certainly get all the dues for the residuary cake that they sell.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** May I know whether Government are aware that this shifting of factories one by

one from the Travancore-Cochin State to other parts of India is very damaging to our economic interests and our self-respect?

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Since the hon. Prime Minister has intervened in this question, may I ask him what is the policy of Government in regard to congregating important major industries in large cities especially in times of war?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That does not arise out of this question.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know what are the products intended to be manufactured in this new factory?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Mainly manufacture of thorium nitrate and also processing of uranium.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** In view of the fact that the new factory will create the necessity for employing additional labour, may I know whether Government have considered the growing unemployment in Travancore-Cochin before they think of shifting this factory?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** The whole question has been considered.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** One more question.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** No. Next Short Notice Question.

#### AVIATION FUEL

**III. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts to enable the Air Services operating in India to get 90-octane-98 Grade Aviation Fuel;

(b) whether this grade is not cheaper than the 100-octane-130 grade fuel now used by Indian Air Companies; and

(c) whether Government are aware that 100-octane-130 grade fuel is supplied to the Australian Air Services at rates considerably cheaper than the rates charged in India and that by the same suppliers?

**The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Only very slightly.

(c) No, Sir.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that aviation fuel used by Dakotas in Australia is