

(b) if so, the location of the bridges; and

(c) when the work is likely to be taken up?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes. 17 Nos. 150' Span Bridge girders for replacement of existing weak girders on South-Eastern Railway.

(b) (i) Karo bridge between Goilker and Posoita stations; and

(ii) Seonath bridge No. 2 between Bilha and Nipania stations, on South-Eastern Railway.

Note: Regirdering has become urgent because the existing early steel girders are showing signs of distress.

(c) By March 1964.

राप्ती नदी पर पुल

११३. डा० महादेव प्रसाद : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मन्त्री २१ अप्रैल, १९६२ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ६६ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय राजपथ संख्या २८ के राप्ती के पुल के मेहराब गिर जाने के कारणों की जांच करने के लिए जो समिति नियुक्त की थी उसका कार्य पूरा हो गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका परिणाम क्या रहा ?

परिवहन तथा संचार मन्त्रालय में नौबहन मन्त्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) जी, नहीं। अभी रिपोर्ट की प्रतीक्षा की जा रही है।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है।

I.A.C. Base at Begumpet

114. **Shri P. C. Deo Bhanj:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines Corporation have taken

a decision, to close down its base at Begumpet, Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) and (b). Hyderabad is an overhaul base for Dakotas while Calcutta is the base for Fokkers and Skymasters and Delhi for Viscounts. The Corporation have placed an order for the purchase of 3 Caravelles Jet aircraft which are due to be delivered in the Winter of 1963-64. On the recommendations made by a Committee appointed for the purpose, the Corporation have decided that the overhaul base for Caravelles should be established at Bombay.

With the progressive reduction in Dakota operations and the further reduction which will result on receipt of Caravelles the Dakota overhaul work is shrinking considerably resulting in a large number of the staff becoming surplus to the requirements of the Hyderabad base. In order to meet the requirements of staff for the Caravelle base at Bombay and simultaneously to absorb the surplus staff at Hyderabad the Corporation have decided to transfer about 250 persons from Hyderabad to Bombay. The remaining staff numbering about 375 would continue to be employed on Dakota overhauls at Hyderabad. The Corporation are also considering the question of centralising all overhaul work of Dakota instruments at Hyderabad. No decision has been taken to close down the Begumpet Workshop.

Shillong Aerodrome

115. **Shri Swell:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan to construct an aerodrome in Shillong has been dropped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the approximate date when the construction is likely to begin?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The proposal was dropped on account of the high cost involved.

Self-Sufficiency in Food

116. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether he stated recently in the U.S.A. that within five years India would be self-sufficient in food; and

(b) if so, what steps, in the main, are contemplated in this behalf?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) During his recent visit to Washington, the Union Minister for Food and Agriculture stated that with the progress made in the field of agriculture in India, assistance can now begin to taper off so that in the next five to ten years, India would need no more food aid from the United States.

(b) The measures being taken to bring about rapid increase in food production are indicated below:—

I. Greater emphasis has been laid on

- (a) Minor Irrigation;
- (b) Fuller utilisation of irrigation potential;
- (c) Soil conservation;
- (d) Supply of fertilisers and manures;
- (e) Seed multiplication and distribution;
- (f) Popularisation of Plant protection and other improved agricultural practices and implements; and
- (g) Intensive Agricultural District Programme.

II. Intensive production programmes for rice, millets, pulses and subsidiary foods, have been introduced in selected districts. For this purpose, Extension machinery is proposed to be strengthened so as to provide one VIW for 4,000 acres of agricultural land and two Agricultural Extension Officers per Block.

III. Administrative arrangements for co-ordination of agricultural programmes are being strengthened. On the suggestion of the Minister of Food and Agriculture, State Governments are setting up two high level Committees—one at the Cabinet level and other at official level for ensuring co-ordination of thought and effort among the different departments dealing with agricultural programmes.

IV. Village Level Workers have been assigned only one set of task, namely, to organise agricultural extension and supplies and help village panchayats and co-operatives to draw up and implement village production plans in agriculture.

V. The Community Development budget has been reorientated so as to cater to the needs of agriculture to the maximum possible extent.

VI. Joint Central Teams comprising the representatives of the Ministries of Food and Agriculture and Community Development and Co-operation visited all the States and reviewed the programmes of agricultural Development for 1963-64 and made important recommendations for improving the arrangements for Administrative Co-ordination at various levels and for removing the existing bottlenecks in the supplies of inputs and for augmenting credit.

VII. Arrangements have also been made for liaison with the States. Each of the Senior Officers of the Department of Agriculture and the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation has been assigned two States which he will visit periodically not