

O. Logan. The aircraft sustained substantial damage to its starboard undercarriage, starboard wing, centre section, starboard propeller, tail wheel and its attachment structure on the fuselage, starboard tailplane. Nobody was injured.

The estimated cost of repairs to the damaged aircraft is Rs. 63,350.

The accident is under investigation.

Stocks of Foodgrains in Maharashtra

1561. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the amount advanced to the Maharashtra Government during the year 1960-61 so far for maintaining the reserve stocks of food and their distribution?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): No money has been advanced to the Maharashtra Government for maintaining the reserve stocks of food and their distribution.

Perunguzhi Halt in Quilon-Trivandrum Line

1562. **Shri M. K. Kumaran:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) when the Perunguzhi Halt in the Quilon-Trivandrum sector of the Southern Railway started working;

(b) whether it is a fact that Perunguzhi Halt is more remunerative to the Railway than the neighbouring flag stations; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to convert this Halt into a flag station?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) The Perunguzhi Train Halt was opened on 15th April, 1950.

(b) No.

(c) Yes, in its turn along with 16 halts proposed to be included by the Southern Railway in their programme for conversion of Halts into flag Stations.

Post Office Building

1563. **Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether land has since been obtained at Jorhat in Assam for construction of a new Post Office Building;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in the matter; and

(c) if not, the facts thereof?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Jorhat Head Post Office is at present housed in a Departmental building. The question of extension to the existing Departmental building to provide additional accommodation which has been necessitated due to increase in staff is already under consideration of the Department.

Robberies in Trains

1564. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of robberies committed in running passenger trains between Delhi and Amritsar on the Northern Railway during 1960 so far;

(b) the estimated loss sustained thereby;

(c) the results of the investigations held into these incidents; and

(d) the measures taken for security of Railway passengers in future?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No case of robbery has been committed so far.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The following measures already exist as a safeguard against such incidents:—

(i) Patrolling has been intensified;

- (ii) Escorts are detailed with all important night trains;
- (iii) Reservation of accommodation for the G.R.P. escorts is arranged in the centre of the train, as far as possible next to ladies' compartments;
- (iv) Surprise checks of patrols and trains are carried out by special night squads and senior officers at night;
- (v) Police pickets are arranged at important check points and large scale raids are carried out;
- (vi) The G.R.P. platform staff are instructed to ensure that safety catches are applied by lady passengers occupying ladies' compartments before the departure of a train;
- (vii) Passengers are dissuaded from occupying solitary compartments after dusk and are requested to occupy compartments with some passengers already there as very often criminals have selected solitary compartments for Commission of crime;
- (viii) T.T.Es. and Conductor Guards have instructions that before a train leaves the starting station they should check all first and second class compartments in respect of safety fittings and also to ensure that no intruder is hiding underneath the berths or in the lavatory.

Milk Powder Factory at Vijayawada

1565. **Shri Rami Reddy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1303 on the 3th April, 1960 and state the progress so far made in the setting up of the Milk Powder Factory at Vijayawada?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): The allocation of 1.6 million Dollars made by UNICEF for the Hyderabad/Vijaya-

wada Project has been accepted. This includes assistance of 1.075 million Dollars for the Vijayawada dairy factory. Work on the establishment of the factory has been started. A senior officer of the State Government has been placed in charge of the scheme. A site for the factory has been acquired and developmental work is in hand. Negotiations for laying a railway siding alongside the factory have been finalised. Building plans are under preparation. Locations for rural chilling stations have been selected. A detailed survey of the villages has been taken up for working out the milk procurement programme.

Willingdon Hospital

1566. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2548 on the 26th April, 1960 and state the nature of further progress made so far in the expansion of the Willingdon Hospital, New Delhi?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): In addition to sanction for the construction of the Ward Block in the Lawrence Square and the Out Patient Department on the Irwin Road, the expansion of the existing kitchen and the construction of a paying ward, sanction has been issued for additions and alterations in the Paying Beds Ward. It is proposed to take up the construction of Out Patient Department on the Irwin Road in the first instance. The construction will begin soon after the vacation and demolition of Government quarters. The C. P. W.D. is preparing the survey report in this connection.

Cultivable waste land in Delhi.

1567. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total acreage of cultivable waste land available at present in Delhi State?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): 36,424 acres.