

took place in the Badgam Tehsil of Kashmir Valley as a result of the recent earthquake;

(b) whether the main centre of this devastation is in close proximity to the only aerodrome in Kashmir Valley; and

(c) whether Government propose to depute top experts to ascertain the cause of this widespread destruction with a view to ensuring the safety of the aerodrome?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Mohiuddin):

(a) Yes; it is reported that about 100 persons were killed and about 500 injured; and that about two thousand houses collapsed or were damaged.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Geological Survey of India have been requested to examine this aspect.

Flights to North Bengal, Assam and Tripura

*720. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Dr. Ranen Sen:
Shri N. R. Laskar:
Dr. P. Srinivasan:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a sudden stoppage of flights to North Bengal, Assam and Tripura from Dum Dum on the 8th May, 1963;

(b) whether this was due to the lighting arrangement of the airport; and

(c) if so, the reasons why this was not set right so long resulting in stoppage of flights?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Mohiuddin):

(a) Freighter flights from Calcutta did not operate between 8th and 11th May, 1963.

(b) Following a dispute between a pilot and an engineer, the pilots refused to operate the Freighter flights from the Maintenance Base as had been the practice previously. One

of the reasons for this refusal was inadequate lighting in the area at night.

(c) Lighting arrangements have since been improved.

World Food Congress

*721. { Shri P. C. Boroah:
Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether food problem confronting developing countries like India, Pakistan and Turkey was discussed at the World Food Congress held in Washington in the beginning of June, 1963;

(b) if so, the observations and recommendations made therein in this behalf; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in the light of those observations/recommendations?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the declaration adopted by the Congress is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1747/63].

(c) The recommendations of the World Food Congress will be considered by the F.A.O. at its conference next November with a view to deciding the steps that should be taken in this matter. The recommendation of the conference will be considered by the Government in due course.

रेलवे स्टेशनों पर किताबों की बूकानें
(बुक स्टाल)

७२२. { श्री विभूति मिश्र :
श्री हरि विष्णु कामत :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार विभिन्न रेलों के अधिकांश स्टेशनों पर मैसर्स ए० एच०