

Navigation Company and cargo in transit valued at about Rs. 3.19 crores were detained in East Pakistan. It is understood that the Pakistan Government declared the vessels and the cargo on board as prizes of war.

(b) Towards the end of November 1965, Government of India made an offer to the Government of Pakistan for exchange on reciprocal basis of cargoes off-loaded and ships and inland vessels detained in either country. It is now hoped that the question of recovery of vessels and cargoes will be taken up during discussions proposed with the representatives of the Government of Pakistan.

#### **Rajkot Airport**

**593. Shri D. J. Naik:** Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airport of Rajkot has been out of commission since 1st January, 1966; and

(b) if so, whether arrangements have been made for booking passengers for Jamnagar-Bombay and Keshod-Bombay routes at Rajkot?

**The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy):** (a) The Rajkot airport was closed to traffic with effect from the 20th January, 1966, in order to carry out extensive repairs.

(b) The Booking Office at Rajkot has been kept open to provide booking facilities to travelling public.

#### **International Tourist Hotel at Bangalore**

**594. Shri Linga Reddy:** Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1126 on the 23rd November, 1965 regarding the opening of an

International Tourist Hotel at Bangalore and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government have made land available near the Guest House for locating the Tourist Hotel;

(b) whether the India Tourist Hotel Corporation has completed the feasibility study; and

(c) if so, estimated cost of the work and the stage at which it stands at present?

**The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy):** (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government have offered a plot of land measuring nearly 11 acres situated near the Guest House for the proposed hotel.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The feasibility study regarding the hotel project at Bangalore has been completed. An architect for this project has been selected. He will prepare plans, designs as well as estimates of cost. Further action will be taken on availability of funds.

#### **Fair Price Shops**

**595. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed an Expert Committee to study the working of the Fair Price shops in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof and how these are to be implemented?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.