

accidents to the Caravelle planes of the Indian Airlines Corporation; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) During the period from 1st August to 31st October, 1966, one Caravelle aircraft of Indian Airlines Corporation met with an accident, near Thana on 4th September, 1966. The accident is under investigation.

(b) Does not arise.

Damage to Crops due to Floods

809. **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Dr. M. M. Das:
Shri Biren Dutta:
Shri Kishen Pattnayak:
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the extent of damage to the standing crops due to the recent floods throughout the country;

(b) the percentage by which the production of foodgrains is likely to fall due to the damage; and

(c) the steps being taken to offset the resulting shortage?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) Cropped areas of about 49,000 acres in Orissa and about 10 lakh acres in Assam have been affected by recent floods. In Bihar about 6 lakh tons of grains have been damaged/destroyed due to floods. Estimates of damage to crops in U.P. and Punjab are not available.

(b) It is rather early at this stage to frame any reasonable estimate of

the likely fall in production of foodgrains due to recent floods.

(c) Efforts are being made to import as much foodgrains from abroad as possible. Internal procurement of foodgrains is being maximised and Government distribution of foodgrains is being increased. Vigorous drive for intensive cultivation of rabi crops according to improved practices has been launched and necessary loans have been issued.

Prices of Imported Foodgrains

810. **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Dr. M. M. Das:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Hem Raj:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) by what percent the prices of imported foodgrains have risen and are likely to rise as a result of devaluation, cost of transport and other expenditure which is incurred on importing food, and how this difference will be met.

(b) the amount of subsidy which Government will give on the imported foodgrains and the liability of the consumer to pay the difference in the price of imported foodgrains before and after devaluation; and

(c) how the prices of imported foodgrains compare with those obtaining in the country?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) The percentage increase in the economic costs of imported foodgrains after devaluation on account of the increased costs of

imported foodgrains and increased sea freights has been as under:

Commodity	Estimated percentage increase in economic cost after devaluation
Wheat	46
Rice	54
Milo	43

This increase in the economic costs of imported foodgrains is being met by subsidy borne as hitherto by the Government of India in the distribution of foodgrains. The proposed increase in the issue prices of imported wheat and milo by Rs. 5.00 and Rs. 7.00 per quintal respectively with effect from 15th November, 1966 and that of coarse rice later would however slightly decrease the subsidy involved in the distribution of these foodgrains.

(b) The extent of subsidy on the distribution of the imported foodgrains at the existing issue prices is as under:

Commodity	Existing issues Price	Extent of subsidy per quintal
	Rs.	Rs.
Wheat	50.00	16.46
Rice	60.00 to 70.00	32.50 to 42.50
Milo	33.00	19.10

The issue prices of imported foodgrains supplied from the Central stocks for distribution to the consumers have been maintained at the same level even after the devaluation of the Rupee. It has, however, been decided to raise the issue prices of imported wheat from Rs. 50.00 to Rs. 55.00 per quintal and that of imported from Rs. 33.00 to Rs. 40.00 per quintal with effect from 15th November, 1966. It has also been decided to increase the issue price of coarse rice to the level of ex-mill cost of the locally procured rice in each State.

(c) The economic costs to the imported foodgrains after devaluation are as under:-

Commodity	Economic costs after devaluation
	Rs.
Wheat	86.46
Rice (Coarse)	102.50
Milo	52.10

As compared to these economic costs, the wholesale market prices of indigenous foodgrains as prevailing during end October 1966 at certain important centres in the country are shown in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7251/66].

Development of Village Roads

811. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made as to the extent to which villages in India have been connected with the main roads through approach roads in the programme of improving communications with a view to develop trade and marketing facilities of villages;

(b) if so, the result thereof;

(c) whether any provision has been made in this regard in the Fourth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the nature of the provisions made and the amount allotted for the purpose?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) to (d). No assessment has been made so far of the extent to which villages in India have been connected with the main roads through approach roads, especially with a view to develop trade and marketing facilities of villages. However, the regional Transport Studies organised by the Joint Technical Group in the