

grast" (Four Airforce planes involved in accidents in 15 days) appeared in the Hindi daily "Navbharat Times" dated 2 June 1985;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted an enquiry into the causes of these accidents;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the concrete steps taken to check such accidents in future, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. In fact, there were three accidents to IAF aircraft in May, 1985. In a fourth incident, a Chetak helicopter had to force land on 21st May, 1985. Both pilots and four journalists travelling as passengers were not injured and there was only minor damage to the engine.

(b) to (d). A separate Court of Enquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of each accident. Their findings and recommendations would be studied by Air Headquarters and necessary remedial measures taken. A number of steps for improving Flight Safety and intensifying training of Air Crew and Ground Crew have already been implemented.

Functioning of P & T Headquarters Ajmer

*116. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported allegation of corruption and serious irregularities in the functioning of the P & T Headquarters of Ajmer;

(b) if so, action taken in the matter; and

(c) whether local public have demanded a C.B.I. enquiry into it and if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) The Government are aware of the reported allegations of corruption and irregularities in the functioning of Ajmer Head Post Office. Specific complaints have been received by the Department from some members of the public as well as bodies regarding loss/abstraction of cheques/bank drafts/Postal Orders/involving heavy amounts from postal articles particularly foreign postal articles meant for delivery from Ajmer Head Post Office.

With regard to Telecommunication services, Government is not aware of any such reported allegations.

(b) Enquiries have been conducted by the Department and the police in three cases that have come to notice from 1976 onwards regarding theft of/abstraction from postal articles. As a result thereof three officials have been placed under suspension and another three officials are being prosecuted in Courts of Law. The entire staff working in the Registration Branch of the Head Post Office has been rotated and a special check is being kept on the delivery postal articles.

(c) Yes, Sir. There was demand for a C.B.I. enquiry into one case. Since the local police have been conducting enquiries, question of reporting the case to the C.B.I. did not arise.

[English]

Vacancies of Chief Justice in High Courts

*117. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of High Courts which do not have Chief Justice at present;

(b) how long these posts have been lying vacant; and

(c) the reasons for not filling up these posts and the steps taken to fill them ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) to (c). As on 25.7.1985, the following 4 High Courts are not having permanent Chief Justices from the dates indicated against each :