

on the maintenance of this air strip during the last 3 years :—

	Rs.
1969-70	4,911
1970-71	5,168
1971-72	5,147

There are no plans at present to develop this air strip.]

#### DAMAGE CAUSED TO INDIAN MISSION IN HANOI BY U. S. BOMBING

\*405. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :  
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI  
CHUNDAWAT :  
SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Mission in Hanoi was hit by U. S. bombing in the second week of October, 1972 ;

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused to the Indian Mission thereby ; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. In the U. S. air raid on Hanoi on October 11, 1972, the Indian Embassy premises were damaged.

(b) The damage consisted of large crack on the ceilings, walls and doors and one room was declared unsafe by the local Service Department. More than a dozen window-panes were shattered.

(c) We lodged a protest with the American Embassy in New Delhi on October 12, 1972. The U. S. Charge d' Affaires described the bombing as unfortunate and un-intentional and conveyed his regret for the damage to Indian property.

#### PAK ALLEGATION REGARDING FIRING IN KASHMIR

\*406. SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH,  
SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan alleged that Indian troops resorted to firing in the Kotli Sector in Kashmir on the 30th September, 1972 ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As stated in the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 785 in the House on 24-11-72, the facts are that the incident on 30th September 1972 was caused by the intrusion of Pakistani troops into the Indian side of the line of control in the Rajouri sector. Despite efforts made by our officer to persuade the intruding personnel to vacate the area, the Pakistani troops continued to move forward. Thereupon our troops were constrained to open fire. The Pakistani troops withdrew across the line of control and returned the fire. Later on 1st October at a flag meeting between the local sector commanders, the Pakistani sector commander regretted the incident and admitted that Pakistan's troops were on the wrong side of the line of control.

#### VIZAG STEEL PLANT

\*407. SHRI PAPI REDDI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requested to loan the services of a suitable Officer from the Andhra Pradesh cadre to act as an Officer on Special duty for Vizag Steel Plant ; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

#### REFUGEES FROM BURMA

\*408. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA  
MENON :

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Burma and Sri Lanka evacuees remain to be rehabilitated in Andaman and Nicobar Islands ;

(b) if so, the number of families involved ;

(c) the reasons for the delay in settling them in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to rehabilitate them ?