

EARTHQUAKES IN INDIA

146. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :
SHRI KANCHI KALYANA-
SUNDARAM :

SHRI T. K. SRINIVASAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been made about the recent earthquakes in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Of the more recent earthquakes, detailed studies have been made of the Koyna earthquake (1967). Preliminary studies of the Bhadrachalam earthquake (1969) and the Broach earthquake (1970) are in progress.

(b) The Koyna earthquake has been studied in depth by various organisations including the Meteorological Department, the Geological Survey of India, the School of Research & Training in Earthquake Engineering, Roorke, the Central Water & Power Commission and a team of UNESCO Experts. The conclusion drawn was that the earthquake with its epicentre about 4 Kilometres south of the Koyna Dam and of shallow depth, was of natural origin and is believed to have been caused by faulting roughly in NNE-SSW direction. Preliminary results from the analysis of the Bhadrachalam earthquake show that it had its origin about 120 Kilometres north of Vijayawada and had a depth of about 30 Kilometres. The preliminary report of the Broach earthquake submitted by the India Meteorological Department indicated the epicentre at 21.70 N, 72.90 E and magnitude 6.0 on the Richter Scale.

LEGISLATION TO PREVENT HIJACKING OF AIRCRAFT

147. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :
SHRI KANCHI KALYANA-
SUNDARAM :

SHRI T. K. SRINIVASAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring legislation to punish persons indulging in hijacking of aircraft and

other allied offences on the pattern of Japanese legislation to punish aircraft hijackers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The reference presumably is to the Tokyo Convention of 1963, which refers to acts which, whether or not offences, may or do jeopardise the safety of the aircraft or of persons or property thereon, or which jeopardise good order and discipline on board. This Convention came into force only in December 1969, and the question of our adhering to it is under examination.

CANDIDATES OFFERING SINDHI IN I.A.S. AND ALLIED SERVICES

148. SHRI JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of candidates in the October, 1969 examinations for IAS, IFS and IPS who (i) took Sindhi language as a subject (ii) answered in Sindhi the question papers in the subjects permitted for answering in Sindhi and (iii) the subjects which were permitted for answering in Sindhi;

(b) the number of the candidates who had indicated that they would answer the question papers in (i) Devanagiri script and (ii) Arabic script and the number of them who did so in each of the scripts; and

(c) the number of the candidates referred to in para (a) above who stood high enough in the written test for the above services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Among the candidates who appeared at the I.A.S. etc. Examination held in October—November, 1969—

(i) four candidates took Sindhi as an optional subject; and

(ii) one candidate answered in Sindhi, and

(iii) the two papers viz. 'Essay' and 'General Knowledge' in respect of which the candidates had the option to write the answers in any of the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, besides English.