

already seized of the matter. However, as far as thefts are concerned, the State Police and the Special Police Establishment have been sent papers but the results of their investigations have not been communicated to Government so far.

INADEQUACY OF PORT FACILITIES IN THE COUNTRY

370. SHRI G. R. PATIL : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Shippers' Council has submitted a memorandum to Government regarding the inadequacy of Port facilities in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V.K.R.V. RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. A memorandum has been received and is under examination ;

(b) Details of the memorandum relate to the inadequate port facilities which are generally known and are receiving attention. These relate to—

- (1) detention of ships at ports,
- (2) lack of adequate loading and unloading facilities,
- (3) berth congestion,
- (4) lack of mechanical aids,
- (5) heavy port charges,
- (6) shortage of storage and warehousing accommodation, and
- (7) inadequate facilities for modern methods for cargo lifting.

(c) The Ministry of Transport and Shipping as also the port authorities are aware of the situation. Suitable action has been initiated in some cases and others are under examination.

HOTEL DEVELOPMENT FUND

371. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the constitution of the Hotel Development Fund has been finalised :

(b) if so, whether the Fund has become operative ; and

(c) the total amount allocated for the Fund during the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) to (c) The terms and conditions for the grant of loans are under finalisation. Disbursements will be made from the loan Fund as soon as these are finalised.

DELHI FLYING CLUB TIGER MOTH CRASH

372. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two Delhi boys died as a result of the crash of a Delhi Flying Club Tiger Moth on the 28th October, 1967 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Tiger Moth was thirty years old ; and

(c) what is the normal flying hours life of a Tiger Moth of that type and how much flying hours it had done ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The date of manufacture of the aircraft is not available, but it was acquired by the Civil Aviation Department in May, 1958.

(c) No limitation regarding maximum flying hours (fatigue life) has been specified by the manufacturer. The Tiger Moth in question had flown 5917.05 hours until the 8th August, 1967 when its airworthiness was last certified.

BRIDGE ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY AT NEENDAKARA

373. SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA) : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of the bridge on the National Highway at Neendakara in Quilon District, Kerala State is still going on :