

pleased to state the total number of air accidents that occurred in 1964 and the number of lives lost and the amount of compensation paid in each accident?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI N. KANUNGO) : During the year 1964, 29 air accidents involving Indian civil aircraft/gliders took place resulting in the loss of six lives. The information regarding the amount of compensation paid in each accident is not readily available.

AIR SERVICES TO AND FROM BARODA

502. SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the air services from and to Baroda were discontinued by the Indian Airlines Corporation since 1964;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to restart these air services in view of the fast industrial progress of the areas around Baroda?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI N. KANUNGO) : (a) to (c) The work on the fair weather strip was originally completed towards the end of March, 1964 after which the Indian Airlines Corporation were operating their services. However, the side strip was rendered unfit for operation as a result of heavy rains during the monsoon. Hence, the Bombay-Baroda air service had to be suspended in June, 1964. The side-strip has again been made fit for operation by Dakota type of aircraft and the IAC resumed the service with effect from 23rd February, 1965 on a thrice weekly basis.

RICE PURCHASE IN MAHARASHTRA

503. SHRI SHIVA NAND RAMAUL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the traders in Maharashtra purchased rice from the producer at much above the official producers' prices fixed by the State Government in accordance with the announcement

of the Government of India following recommendations of the Jha Committee; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken against such traders for the defiance of Government order?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) No producer's price for rice has been fixed in Maharashtra. The producer's price for paddy is the minimum price which has been statutorily fixed. Purchases therefore from the producer may be effected above this price but the Government has no information of the extent to which such purchases have been made.

(b) Does not arise.

ACQUISITION OF NEW BOEING FOR AIR-INDIA

504. SHRI S. C. DEB : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the eighth Boeing for Air-India will be acquired by the middle of March 1965; and

(b) if so, how the route service of Air-India is proposed to be improved?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI N. KANUNGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Expansion in operation envisaged by Air-India during the course of 1965-66 is as follows :—

- (i) Ninth frequency to U.K. via Middle East;
- (ii) Duplication of the service to Sydney from once weekly to twice weekly; and
- (iii) Extension of one service from Nairobi to Entebbe in Uganda.

TOUR OF INDIA BY FARM LEADERS FROM U.S.A.

505. SHRI S. C. DEB : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that six farm leaders of America are visiting different