

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI): (a) and (b) It is not in the public interest to furnish the information asked for.

†PRODUCTION OF VITAMIN 'C'

832-B. SHRI P. N. KATJU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the quantity of vitamin 'C' produced in India, based on processes developed in our National Laboratories during the years 1959-60, 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63 and 1963-64?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): There has been no production of Vitamin 'C' based on processes developed in our National Laboratories.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

ACCIDENT TO BOMBAY FLYING CLUB'S
PIPER-CUB AIRCRAFT VT-DFU

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): Madam, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Civil Aviation to the non-return to the base of Bombay Flying Club's Piper-Cub aircraft VT-DFU which took off from Juhu aerodrome in Bombay on September 25, 1964.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI N. KANUNGO): Madam, Piper-Cub aircraft VT-DFU, piloted by Shri Madhukar Chauhan, holder of a Private Pilot's licence, was involved in a fatal accident, while, on a cross-country flight from Bombay to Ahmedabad on the 25th September, 1964.

†Transferred from the 1st October, 1964

785RS-4.

The aircraft took off from Juhu aerodrome at Bombay at 0944 hours IST. Also on board the aircraft was a cousin of the pilot, Shri Jitendra Narottam Chauhan. The aircraft was expected to land at Ahmedabad at 1300 hours IST. Since it failed to arrive at its destination, the airport authorities at Ahmedabad notified the Bombay airport authorities at 1350 hours that the aircraft was overdue and had not landed at Baroda either.

Bombay initiated overdue action and informed the Bombay Flying Club and other authorities. Ahmedabad and Baroda were also requested to initiate search and rescue action. All India Radio was requested to broadcast the news of the missing aircraft from Bombay, Baroda and Ahmedabad in the local languages. Two Pushpak of the Gujarat Flying Club, one Indian Air Force Liberator, two Piper-Cub aircraft from Juhu and Maharashtra Government's Expeditor participated in the search, but the aircraft could not be located.

On 27th September, 1964, the pilot of the Expeditor aircraft reported having observed one body floating eight to ten miles west of Maroli at 1755 hours, IST. Arrangements were made with the Naval authorities at Bombay to send two vessels to the area the next morning. The pilot's relatives also separately organised search. Information was received at 1430 hours on the 28th September, 1964, that the body of the pilot was picked up from the sea by the search party organised by the relatives of the pilot and the club authorities, two miles from the coast near Nargol village.

The Naval Frigate which was engaged in surface search ultimately succeeded in locating the ill-fated aircraft's wreckage and has also recovered the body of the passenger, Shri J. N. Chauhan. The search has now been concluded.

The accident is being investigated by a Senior Aircraft Inspector of the Civil Aviation Department at Bombay.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether a judicial probe will be made into this?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Yes; an Inspector is enquiring into it.

SHRI BIREN ROY (West Bengal): On that particular day, that is, the 25th September 1964, is it a fact that the weather was so bad that a pilot with experience of only 100 hours and a plane like the Piper Cub should not have been allowed to go up fully loaded with another passenger? And is it for that very reason that the Bombay Flying Club—it has come out in the newspapers; I cannot vouch for it—suspended its Chief Pilot Instructor?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: All these factors will come out in the course of the enquiry and my latest information is that the Bombay Flying Club has not suspended the Chief Flying Instructor.

ENQUIRY RE NOTICE OF MOTION FOR PAPERS

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): Madam, I had given notice of a motion calling for papers regarding the terrible tragedy that has occurred in Macherla in Andhra Pradesh because of floods and also I was one of the signatories to another motion regarding the constitutional dead-lock arising out of the Supreme Court's opinion on the President's reference with regard to the case between the U.P. Legislature and the High Court.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The notice that you have given is passed on to the Government and they must be examining it. Now, Mr. Misra will make a statement about floods in Andhra Pradesh.

STATEMENT RE. FLOODS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI S. D. MISRA): Madam, a depression formed over the West Central Bay of Bengal on 27th September. It became deep on the 28th morning with centre about 150 kilometres east of Kakinada and moved West North West Coast across the Andhra Coast near Kakinada on the 28th night and east north Khammameth on the 29th morning. Continuing to move West North West it weakened by the same evening when it was centred about 100 metre west of Hyderabad. It weakened further by 30th morning and became unimportant next day.

In association with this depression rainfall commenced along Andhra Coast on the 27th and extended in line by next day. It caused widespread and locally heavy rain over Andhra Pradesh on 28th night and 29th.

The Krishna recorded a flow of 12 lakhs cusecs on 30th September. This high flood has washed away 15 spans out of a total of 33 spans of the construction bridge located 2500 feet downstream of the Nagarjunasagar Dam. Eight spans were washed out on 29th September and seven more or reported to have failed since then. Two persons are missing and are suspected to have been drowned at the project site. No other damage to life or property has occurred at the project site. The Nagarjunasagar Dam, under construction, is fully intact. Efforts are being made to complete the Project on schedule in spite of this dislocation to Projects communication system. Plans are being actively considered for transport of material and personnel across the river in the speediest manner. The Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, Shri C. Subramaniam, and the Minister for Irrigation and Power, Dr. K. L. Rao, have made an aerial inspection of the area yesterday.