

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

OFFICERS IN THE EASTERN ZONE OF THE MINISTRY

•47. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of a number of officers in the Eastern Zone Office of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in Calcutta have not yet been put up before the Union Public Service Commission; and

(b) whether it is a fact that only two such cases were put up but both the officers concerned were considered by the Union Public Service Commission as unfit?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) In the Eastern Region four Officers were promoted to gazetted rank and two transferred from other Services during 1959-60 without consulting the U.P.S.C. At the time these appointments were made candidates selected by the U.P.S.C. were not available. The two officers transferred from other services have been in the Department for less than a year, and if they have to be continued their cases will, as required by the regulations, be referred to the U.P.S.C. Action is being taken to convene a Departmental Promotion Committee in which the cases of the other four officers will be considered.

(b) 3 gazetted officers of the Eastern Region have not been found suitable by the Union Public Service Commission for the posts held by them, but these are different from the officers referred to in the answer to part (a) of this question. All ad hoc appointments made in the past up to the end of April, 1958 in the entire department, were referred to the U.P.S.C. during June-July, 1958, and the views of the U.P.S.C. were received in July, 1959. 15 of these officers were in the Eastern Region. Out of these the Commission approved 12 for gazetted

posts and found three unsuitable. Steps are being taken to fill the posts held by these 3 officers as well as those held by 4 officers referred to in the answer to part (a) of this question by regular candidates selected by the U.P.S.C. or by the Departmental Promotion Committee.

CRASH OF AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO KALINGA AIRLINES

•48. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any aircraft belonging to the Kalinga Airlines crashed on July 10-11 or thereabout on its way to India from an overseas airport;

(b) if so, what was the number of the casualties;

(c) when the news of the crash was brought to the notice of the Government;

(d) when the relatives of those killed in the accident were informed; and

(e) whether the Minister will lay on the Table of the House a statement containing all these and other details about the crash?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): (a) to (e) A statement giving the requisite information is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Government have received the report of investigation of the circumstances under which an Indian registered Dakota aircraft VT-DGS, on its flight from Bahrain to Sharjah on the 10th July, 1960, failed to reach its destination. The report is under examination.

2. According to the report, the Dakota aircraft VT-DGS registered in India in the name of Indamer Company (P) Ltd., and on lease to the Kalinga Airlines was employed on

Gulf Aviation's scheduled passenger service from Bahrain to Sharjah *via* Doha (and return) on the 10th July, 1960, in accordance with a charter agreement between Kalinga Airlines and Gulf Aviation Co. Ltd. The aircraft took off from Doha at 0516 G.M.T. for Sharjah, a distance of about 240 miles. It was expected to be over Sharjah at 0646 G.M.T. but failed to reach its destination. The aircraft carried three members of crew and 13 passengers. Extensive search carried out to locate the aircraft or its wreckage proved of no avail. The search was finally abandoned on the 17th July, 1960. The Chief Inspector of Accidents, who was deputed to Gulf area to investigate the accident has prepared his report on the basis of information available to him.

3. Information regarding the missing aircraft was received by the Director General of Civil Aviation, on the same day, namely, the 10th July, 1960.

4. According to Kalinga Airlines, the relatives of the passengers of the ill-fated aircraft were formally informed on the 19th July, 1960, by the Gulf Aviation Company, who were the operators of the flight and that Kalinga Airlines had informed the next of kin of the crew and are presently in correspondence with them regarding the settlement of claims of compensation.

5. A copy of the report of investigation will be placed in the Library of the Parliament after Government have taken a decision on its acceptance or otherwise.

PARTICIPATION IN METEOROLOGICAL RESEARCH

*64. SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have been invited to participate in the meteorological research sponsored by the National Aeronautics and

Space Administration of the United States of America; and

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the offer?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): (a) and (b). The National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the U.S.A. has invited the India Meteorological Department to participate in the meteorological observational programme during the passage over India of the second meteorological satellite, named Tiros II, for a period of about 6 weeks after it has been in the orbit for a month. The India Meteorological Department has agreed to participate in the programme by taking upper air meteorological data relating to wind, temperature and humidity up to higher levels of about 52,000 ft., as against the normal level of about 40,000 ft., during the passage of the satellite over India.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH MESSRS TATA ENGINEERING AND LOCOMOTIVE COMPANY ON THE PRICES TO BE PAID FOR METRE GAUGE LOCOMOTIVES

*65. SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the negotiations with Messrs Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company on the prices to be paid for the metre gauge locomotives produced by them have concluded; and

(b) if so, what are the new prices fixed and how do these prices compare with the prices of locomotives produced at Chittaranjan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.