

tion about life insurance in India and in finalising such life insurance proposals?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: It may be one of the reasons why the L. I. C. is thinking of setting up an office there to enrol direct business from London.

ABESNTEEISM IN DELHI SCHOOLS

*30. SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that absenteeism in Delhi Schools has of late assumed alarming proportions;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for this; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to minimise this?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise. EXPLOSION OF

INDIAN AIR FORCE

PLANE NEARABOUT AGRA

*31. SHRI HARIHAR PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Air Force plane exploded in mid-air nearabout Agra on the 23rd December, 1959; and

(b) if so, what were the reasons of the accident and what have been the losses on account of it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the accident. The cause of the accident and the loss caused by it will be known after the proceedings have been finalised.

SHRI HARIHAR PATEL: May I know when the Court is likely to submit its report?

MR. CHAIRMAN: When do you expect the thing to be submitted?

That is his question.

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: It should be with the Ministry in the next couple of months.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know the number of casualties in this accident?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Five.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know if the plane was insured, and if so, for how much?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: The plane was not insured, and it is not the policy of the Defence Ministry to insure Defence planes.

NATIONAL DISCIPLINE SCHEME

*32. SHRI HARIHAR PATEL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the up-to-date progress of the National Discipline Scheme;

(b) whether the result of the Scheme has been found satisfactory and encouraging; and

(c) whether there is going to be an expansion of the Scheme in the near future to other areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) The Scheme at present covers 622 schools/ institutions with over 3 lakhs children under training in Delhi and in the States of Bombay, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal;

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir.

SHRI HARIHAR PATEL: May I know what the purposes of the scheme are?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: To inculcate discipline among students.