

783

Written Answers

[ 25 APRIL 1960 ]

to Questions

# NAVAL TRAINER AIRCRAFT CRASH NEAR COCHIN PORT

\*268. SHRI HARIHAR PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Naval trainer aircraft crashed in the sea near Challanam, south-west of Cochin Port, on 22nd March, 1960; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the accident?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

## STATEMENT

On the 22nd March, 1960, at approximately 09.20 hrs., Sealand Aircraft INS 104 took off from Naval Air Station, Cochin on a training flight. It was being piloted by Sub-Lt. A.K.D. Gupta with Sub-Lt. A. K. Mehra as co-pilot. It appears that at about 09.27 hours, the aircraft was flying at a low altitude over the sea parallel to the coast. It was later established that it had crashed into the sea approximately 10 miles south of Cochin and about one mile off shore approximately at 09.39 hrs. There fishermen who were eye witnesses to the accident stated that the aircraft was just beginning to turn towards the coast when it crashed into the sea. Sub-Lt. A. K. D. Gupta was killed. Sub-Lt. A. K. Mehra who was thrown clear of the aircraft, was seriously injured and rescued by local fishermen. He is making satisfactory progress in the hospital at Cochin.

2. A Board of Enquiry was held to investigate the cause of the accident but no evidence appears to have been forthcoming which would establish clearly the actual cause of the accident.

# CAR LIFTERS IN DELHI

\*269. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gang of car lifters has recently been traced by the Faiz Bazar Police, Delhi;

(b) whether a number of stolen Fiat cars have been recovered by the police; and

(c) since how long this gang had been working?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT):

(a) Yes.

(b) Five stolen Fiat cars have been recovered.

(c) The case is under investigation.

## PRODUCTION OF IRON ORE

72. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) what was the production of iron ore in the country during January last;

(b) what amounts of iron ore were produced from different mines during the said month; and

(c) whether the production in that month was the highest so far?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) On the basis of returns received so far the production of iron ore during January, 1960 was 826,624 metric tons.

(b) As the number of mines producing iron ore is very large and the supply of information mine-wise will be voluminous a Statewise statement is given below:—

State	No. of reporting mines	Production in metric tons
Orissa	33	328,157
Bihar	36	234,023
Mysore	70	109,652