

श्री हुमायुं कबीर : एयरोड्रोम तो सिविल एयरोड्रोम डिपार्टमेंट में ही डबल्यु० डी० के जरिये बनाता है ।

مولانا ایم فاروقی : کیا یہ ایروڈروم انفا بڑا ہے کہ اس میں جہت بلڈین آکر سکتے ہیں ؟

[मौलाना एम० फारुकी : क्या यह एयरोड्रोम इतना बड़ा है कि इसमें जेट प्लेन उतर सकते हैं ?]

श्री हुमायुं कबीर : जेट प्लेन नहीं उतरेंगे ।

श्री रघुवीर सिंह : क्या इसमें रेडार इंस्टालेशन के लिये कोई प्रबन्ध है या नहीं ?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: All the necessary equipment for an aerodrome of this type will be installed.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Radar equipment?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The hon. Members know that we do not have complete radar equipment in any airport at present.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Is it not intended to instal radar equipment in this aerodrome?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Progressively we would first take up our most important aerodromes, and as our financial condition improves and air traffic goes up, the question of the less important aerodromes will be taken up.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if there are not other considerations making this aerodrome really strategically important?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: If there are other considerations, they will be taken due care of.

FOOD SHORTAGE

*381. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of food at present in Bihar and other States; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether any aid has been given by the Centre in the shape of loan or grant etc. to these States and if so, in what form and to what extent?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) and (b). Bihar is normally deficit in foodgrains and supplies have to be sent from outside to make up the deficit. There are other deficit areas also who need help. Rice and wheat are being supplied by the Centre to the different States at subsidised prices. No grant as such is given to the State Governments.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: Is the Government aware that agriculturists in Bihar are abandoning agriculture and are going in for easier and more lucrative jobs in industries like coal and mining?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I have no such information.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Is the Minister aware that severe scarcity conditions are prevailing in West Bengal? If so, what steps are being taken to meet the situation?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: This question relates specifically to Bihar. We are aware of the conditions in Bengal and we are doing whatever is possible to do under the circumstances.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING ,, PATIL: What is the exact deficit of Bihar in respect of foodgrains?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It has not been calculated. It will differ from year to year because as far as Bihar is concerned, in some years it will suffer

from flood and in some years from drought and in the same year some part of Bihar will suffer from flood and some part from drought. So it is not possible to estimate the deficit. This year the *rabi crops* of Bihar failed so that we had to make substantial supplies to Bihar.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: Is the food shortage in Bihar natural or artificial?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It is partly natural and partly artificial.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be more specific with regard to the steps taken in regard to Bengal?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In fact we are supplying the quantity of wheat they have asked for and we are also making substantial supplies of rice and I don't think there is very difficulty with regard to supplies from the Centre.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Is it a fact that for the last 30 or 40 years even in normal years Bihar has been deficit in foodgrains?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: That is conceded in the answer to the question.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if in the past Bihar used to be fed by Nepal and now the supplies from Nepal have completely stopped?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It is a fact. Previously the normal channel has been Orissa, Nepal and to a certain extent U.P. also. The supplies have now been practically nil.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is the Minister aware that there is a widespread scarcity in the different parts of Bengal and that there is great discontent in that State with regard to supplies and prices of foodgrains?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: There have been reports of difficulties from Bengal,

and I am going to Bengal on the 7th in order to discuss the whole problem and take decisions so far as possible on the spot.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the hon. Minister, as he is good enough to go to Bengal even at this late hour, would find it necessary to call a conference of various party representatives to discuss the food situation?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: So far as we are concerned, we occasionally invite the Members of Parliament belonging to different parties to discuss the problem but so far as this particular case concerns Bengal, the hon. Member had better approach the State Government.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know whether there is food shortage in Assam and whether the Government is supplying rice to that State also?

Ms. CHAIRMAN: We cannot go on in this way. From Bihar we went to Bengal and now from Bengal we go to Assam. Next question.

SANCTION OF LOAN FOR RAILWAY PROJECTS BY WORLD BANK

*382. SHRI P. C. BHANU DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the results of negotiations with the World Bank for a loan for Railway projects have materialised;

(b) if so, what is the total amount of such loan; and

(c) what are the terms on which this loan has been sanctioned by the World Bank?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 42·8 crores, made up in various currencies.

(c) The rate of interest is 5·5/8 per cent. The loan is repayable in -arly instalments commencing from 1st July 1961.