

NAGPUR AERODROME

*228. SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nagpur is an important centre for night air service;

(b) whether the lighting arrangements provided there for the landing and take-off of planes are inadequate and not upto modern technical standards;

(c) whether the Aerodrome lacks elementary conveniences to the passengers such as lounge and waiting room; and

(d) whether Government have any immediate plan to improve the said Aerodrome?

THE DEPUTE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing lighting facilities are not inadequate, but plans are in hand for provision of improved facilities.

(c) No. Necessary passenger facilities such as lounge and waiting room already exist at the aerodrome.

(d) Yes, Sir.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: My question was whether the lighting arrangements provided there are according to the modern technical standards.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: They are not but they are sufficient for purposes of night landing.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: Is the Government aware that there is only a covered verandah there serving as a waiting room?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I hope that the hon. Member knows that we have already got a very, fine terminal building completed there. It is to be open ed very shortly.

PROF. G. RANGA: Can the hon. Minister assure us that the sanitary conveniences there and also the verandah waiting room are big enough even for my hon. friend?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The hon. Member may be quite proud of his corporate proportions, but with all respect to him, I can tell him that the waiting room there is quite as sufficient for him as for me.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the night air service popular in spite of these facilities?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It is very popular. You could hardly get a seat unless you book two or three days in advance.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I would like to know if the hon. Member knows the Nagpur Aerodrome?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I can tell my hon. friend that Nagpur happens to be my father-in-law's place.

CONSTRUCTION OF AIRSTRIPS

*229. SHRI R. THANHLIRA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether Government propose to construct an airstrip at or near Lungleh (Assam) and also near Aijal? If so, when is the construction of these airstrips likely to start?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): The whole question of constructing airstrip in the Assam area is under examination. It is not possible to say how soon construction will start.

SHRI R. THANHLIRA: Is it a fact that the construction of these airstrips was suggested to the Prime Minister when he last visited Assam?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Yes, Sir, and we are taking steps in accordance with that. The Chief Engineer of the Aviation Wing of the Central P.W.D. had

gone there and made surveys. We have tried to find out the most suitable place in which this airstrips can be located.

**EXEMPTION UNDER THE EMPLOYEES
STATE INSURANCE ACT**

*230. SHRI T. D. PUSTAKE: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications have been received from each State during the current year for exemption under section 73F of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948;

(b) whether any of these applications have been granted; and

(c) if so, on what grounds and if not, why not?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 74.]

(b) 7 applications were considered and rejected; rest of them are under consideration.

(c) Most of these applications asked for exemptions on financial grounds. As the Act does not permit grant of exemption on such grounds, the applications had to be rejected.

SHRI T. D. PUSTAKE: May I know, Sir, what are the circumstances contemplated in the Act for granting exemption?

SHRI ABID ALI: If the factory is situated in a sparse area, where it may be difficult for the Corporation or the State Government to provide for the administration of benefits, if any factory is seasonal in nature, although it does not come under the definition of the term "seasonal factory" as given in the Act and if the employees are engaged for less than seven months in a year in a perennial factory.

SHRI T. D. PUSTAK3: May I know I if this Act is implemented in all parts j

of the Country or is it only implemented in some parts of the country?

SHRI ABID ALI: At present it is in force in Delhi and Kanpur. For the rest of the places we are having a programme as soon as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 233, Mr. Rath.

SHRI B. RATH: The material on which I had based the question has been lost after the Government raid on our office, and no useful purpose will be served by my putting the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You were not here when I called you.

*231 & *232. [The questioner (Shri S. N. Mazurnder) was absent.]

*233. [The question was not put.]

**TRADE AGREEMENT WITH BURMA FOR
SUPPLY OF RICE**

*234. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has entered into any trade agreement with Burma for the import of rice from that country in the year 1953-54; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of the said agreement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA) : (a) and (b). Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the replies given on the 24th February, 1953, to the Supplementaries to Starred Question No. 81 by Shri M. Valiulla.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: From the paper referred to, I find that the Government of India has entered into an agreement with the Government of Burma. Any agreement presupposes a bilateral arrangement. So, I want to know the nature of that arrangement.