

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : How many persons travelled in that plane?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : Fifteen.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will the hon. Minister please let us know who those 15 persons were and why there was such a big celebration party?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : Among those 15 persons there were 10 officials including two Ministers. There were other invitees and one employee of the Hindusthan Shipyard Ltd. and members of the staff of the two Ministers.

SHRI ABDUL RAZAK : May I know the extra time that would have been taken if those persons had travelled by train?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : By train, it would have taken a much longer time. It would have taken 7 days to come back to Delhi.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : May I know if the Madras-Calcutta flight of Airways India Ltd., could have stopped at Visakhapatnam on that day or the next day?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : As I have already stated, on the 9th and 10th there were no flights to and from Visakhapatnam. There was a flight available on Tuesday, but none on Monday.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : I asked whether the plane from Madras to Calcutta does not stop at Visakhapatnam, not the plane from Calcutta to Madras.

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : It stops at Visakhapatnam.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : On this particular day?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : On that particular day there was no flight.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : From Madras to Calcutta?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : According to the latest time-table, there are no flights on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Only on other days flights are available. In this particular case, the function was on Wednesday, the 9th July.

SHRI O. SOBHANI : Would the Government kindly consider the desirability of exercising a little more economy in such matters?

(No answer was given.)

### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

MR. CHAIRMAN : Short notice question by Shri Borooah.

#### FLOODS IN N. E. FRONTIER AGENCIES

18. SHRI L. BOROOAH : Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Central Government has been drawn to the information appearing in the 'Statesman' of July 21, 1952, about the devastating floods in North-East Frontier Agency at Saikhowa Ghat, Sadiya and Abor Hills;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been loss of human lives as a result of the floods of the Brahmaputra in Saikhowa Ghat;

(c) whether the Central Government have been requested by the Government of Assam for immediate supply of food grains and medicine to the flood-affected people of Mismi Hills and Abor Hills, Dibrugarh and other places of Assam; and

(d) what steps the Government have taken and propose to take for relief of the flood-affected people of Assam?

THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND IRRIGATION & POWER (SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two deaths have been reported as due to the floods in Assam.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Anti-malarial drugs and milk powder to the value of Rs. 55,000 have been sent to the Assistant Director of Public Health, Gauhati through the West Bengal Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society. A further consignment of medical stores comprising bleaching powder, sulpha drugs, potassium permanganate and quinine worth about Rs. 40,000 is also being sent to this officer. The Government of India are considering the possibility of sending further supplies of medical stores, e.g., quinine tablets, mepacrine tablets, multi-vitamin tablets, etc. free of cost. A request has also been made to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund for the supply of 50 tons of skimmed milk powder, and one million tablets, each of Sulphadiazine and Paludrine for relief in the flood-affected areas.

As regards foodstuffs, the State Government have got stocks sufficient for 14 weeks and to meet emergent supplies. The State Government have been advised that they should make whatever emergency distribution may be necessary out of the stocks that they hold and that it will be subsequently replenished to meet the resulting demands in full. The supply of 5,000 maunds of rice for sale at a concessional rate of Rs. 15 per maund has been agreed to by the Central Government. In regard to 5,000 maunds of rice for free supply, the Central Government have suggested that the State Government may, in the first instance, meet the expenditure from the Governor's Relief Fund.

In connection with the flood relief operations several aircrafts have been carrying a number of sorties for carrying food supplies and transporting strand-

ed persons since the 16th July 1952. A statement giving the details is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix II, Annexure No. 53.)

SHRI L. BOROOAH : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the amount of food grains and medical relief wanted by the Chief Minister of Assam?

SHRI AJIT PRASAD JAIN : In reply to the question it has been said that the Assam Government wanted 10,000 maunds of rice—5,000 for sale at the concession rate of Rs. 15 per maund and 5,000 maunds for free distribution.

SHRI L. BOROOAH : Has any quantity of food grains been directed to be distributed free?

SHRI AJIT PRASAD JAIN : Yes. The Assam Government have been told that they might in the first instance distribute free food grains from the Governor's Discretionary Fund. If that proves insufficient, they can approach the Central Government and the Central Government will consider their request.

SHRI L. BOROOAH : Will the hon. Minister state whether the medicine sent from Bengal has reached Assam?

SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA : There is no further information on that subject.

SHRI L. BOROOAH : Will the Government enquire and let us know?

SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA : Yes.

SHRI B. RATH : Has the Government considered whether the assistance given by them is sufficient to meet the emergency arising at present in Assam?

SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA : The assistance is being progressively expanded according to the needs.