

(a) whether a Professor of Geology from Friendship University, Moscow, who came to India recently on a three months' tour, has submitted any report after visiting Geological Institutions and Universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations and suggestions made by him; and

(c) what action Government propose to take on the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGAWAT JHA AZAD): (a) The report is awaited.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

INCREASE IN CRIMES IN WEST BENGAL

*228. SHRI M. R. VENKATARA-MAN: Will the MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement made by the Home Secretary, West Bengal, at a recent meeting of the West Bengal Consultative Committee to the effect that the increase in crime in the State is due to increase in prices of essential commodities and unemployment problem; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) In the course of discussion in the meeting of the Consultative Committee held at Calcutta on 18th June, 1968, it was explained on behalf of the Government of West Bengal that as compared to 1964, there was an increase in the incidence of crime during the years 1966 and 1967. It was also stated that recession in industrial activity and consequent unemployment situation was an important factor in explaining the rise in incidence of crime. Other contributory factors include rise in prices of essential commodities, rise in population, police preoccupation with disturbances, etc.

BLASTING GELATINE AND DETONATORS WITH FATHER FERRER

*229. SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Father Ferrer had obtained permission in the name of Shri Norman Essay to stock blasting gelatine and detonators for the Maharashtra Shetkari Seva Mandal; and

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Shri Norman Essay was an officer in the Indian Defence Service before his retirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) On an application from Father Vincent Ferrer in his capacity as Manager, Maharashtra Shetkari Seva Mandal, a licence to store 10 lb of gelatine, 100 detonators and 100 lbs of blasting powder was issued in favour of Shri Norman Essay, Mining Engineer of the Shetkari Seva Mandal.

(b) Shri Norman Essay is reported to have stated to the police that he is a military pensioner. This is being verified from the Defence authorities concerned.

*230. [Transferred to the 22nd August, 1968.]

जयपुर में दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हुआ 'पुष्पक' विमान

* 231. श्री रेवती कानन सिंह : क्या पर्यटन तथा नागर विमानन मंत्री यह वताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिन्दुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड द्वारा निर्मित विमान 'पुष्पक' सितम्बर, 1967 में जयपुर में दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया था ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि नागर विमानन निदेशालय के वायु रक्षा निदेशक ने उक्त दुर्घटना के सम्बन्ध में अपनी जांच रिपोर्ट दे दी है ; और

(ग) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (क) तथा (ख) का उत्तर 'हां' हो तो उक्त रिपोर्ट का ब्यौरा क्या है और दुर्घटना के लिये जिम्मेदार व्यक्तियों को सरकार ने क्या सजा दी है ?