

**Purchase of Floating Cranes**

\*1049. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to purchase second-hand floating cranes from Hong-Kong;

(b) the price which is proposed to be offered, and

(c) when the delivery is likely to be made?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c) Two second-hand floating cranes suitable for use in major ports were reported to be available for sale in Hong Kong in view of the urgent need for such a crane in the port of Visakhapatnam, a technical officer of the port was deputed to inspect the cranes. On receipt of his report, which is awaited, the question of purchasing one crane will be considered.

**Fumigation of Raw Mangoes**

\*1053. **Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that raw mangoes arriving in Delhi are being artificially ripened by fumigation with Carbide Gas;

(b) if so, whether there is any possibility of the gas poisoning the mango pulp, and

(c) whether Government have investigated into the possible ill-effects of such gas treatment on the health of the citizens?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes

(b) No evidence is available yet about the possibility of poisoning of mango pulp by Calcium Carbide

(c) The matter is being enquired into

**Post Offices in Rayalaseema**

\*1055. **Shri Ramakrishna Reddy:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state whether more Sub-Post Offices are proposed to be started in Rayalaseema to improve postal facilities and thereby give encouragement for the advancement of that backward area?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Yes, it is proposed to open in this area about 27 sub-post offices in addition to 470 Branch Offices during the period from 1957-58 to 1960-61 under the policy of the Second Five Year Plan, though this area is not included in the schedule of backward areas for the purpose of opening of post offices.

**Japanese Method of Cultivation**

\*1058. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Japanese method of cultivation of wheat, barley, maize and other food crops is under investigation,

(b) if so, the progress made under each category;

(c) the amount spent for each experiment, and

(d) when the results will be known?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Some investigations were undertaken to assess the increase in yield of paddy under cultivator's conditions due to both Japanese cultural practices and manuring during the years 1953-54 to 1955-56. There is, however, no 'Japanese method' of cultivation for wheat, barley, maize or other food crops

(b) The investigations referred to under (a) are in respect of paddy and have already been completed.

(c) A sum of Rs 53,760 was spent on the investigations on paddy.