

**Saw Mill in Andaman Islands**

\*675. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:  
 { Shri Raghunath Singh:  
 { Sardar A. S. Saigal:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 8 feet Band Saw Mill at Chatham, Port Blair does not turn out correct size material; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make suitable changes in the working of that Mill?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) No, Sir. The eight feet Band Saw Mill at Chatham turns out correct size material.

(b) Does not arise.

**Post Cards and Money Order Forms in Regional Languages**

\*676. **Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether decision has been taken for printings post cards and money order forms in regional languages;

(b) whether the States have been asked to undertake printing of the same; and

(c) when the decision is likely to be implemented?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):**

(a) A policy decision has been taken by the Government to print certain forms used by the public including Money Order forms in the regional languages. This decision however, could not be implemented due to want of equipment for the purpose with the Printing and Stationery Department. As regards post-cards the Government have decided to print the same Bilingually in Hindi and English only. Due to various practical difficulties it is not

possible to print the same in regional languages.

(b) No.

(c) It will take some time when the Printing and Stationery Department is able to take up the work.

**Earthquake**

\*677. { Shri S. A. Mehdi:  
 { Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:  
 { Shri Assar:

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether earthquake shocks were felt in Delhi, Srinagar, Chandigarh and other places on the 19th February, 1960;

(b) if so, what was the intensity thereof at these places; and

(c) whether any damage to property has been reported?

**The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin):** (a) and (b). A shock of mild intensity with epicentre in Hindukush region was recorded on the 19th February, 1960 by the various Seismological Observatories of the India Meteorological Department, including one at Delhi. There is no observatory at Srinagar or Chandigarh but the shocks are reported to have been felt at these places.

(c) According to Press reports, a few cracks appeared in the walls of some buildings in Srinagar due to this tremor. There has been no report of any damage at other places.

**Wheat from U.S.A.**

\*678. { Shri P. G. Deb:  
 { Shri P. C. Borooah:  
 { Shri Bishwanath Roy:  
 { Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:  
 { Shri S. A. Mehdi:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a wheat consignment from the U.S.A.

for India has been detained at Port Said;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether the wheat has been sold to the United Arab Republic for small amount; and

(d) if so, what is the total loss to India on that account?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steamer has been held up due to alleged financial difficulties of the owner, and their consequent inability to meet their current expenses, including wages of the crew.

(c) and (d). The disposal of the wheat is still under negotiation, and it is premature to estimate the loss, if any, sustained.

#### **Naval Training School, Ratnagiri**

\*679, **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1530 on the 16th December, 1959 and state at what stage is the proposal to establish a Naval Training School in Ratnagiri?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** The National Shipping Board who have reviewed the position regarding the supply of ratings by three Ratings Training Establishments T.S. "BHADRA", T.S. "MEKHALA" and T.S. "NAU LAKSHI" have advised that the existing facilities for the training of merchant navy ratings are adequate and that no further expansion is called for. Government have considered the matter carefully and have come to the conclusion that there is no need to set up a fourth training establishment for ratings at

Ratnagiri. A proposal for establishing a training centre there for the training of tindals of sailing vessels is, however, under active consideration of Government.

#### **Integral Coach Factory, Perambur**

\*680. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of man-hours taken for the construction of a coach at the Integral Coach Factory at Perambur during December, 1959; and

(b) when the furnishing unit will be completed?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) Average figures of man-hours for December are not available, as no batch order was completed during December. The average number of man-hours taken to produce a coach in the period April to October, 1959 were 14,400 (8,700 for the shell and 5,700 for furnishing).

(b) A temporary Furnishing Unit at I.C.F. is already functioning and turning out 22 coaches per month. The permanent Furnishing Unit to cater for the entire I.C.F. production is expected to be completed by about the middle of 1962.

#### **Casual Workers on the Eastern Railway**

767. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of casual workers on the Eastern Railway at present;

(b) how many of such workers have put in more than a year of continuous work; and

(c) the number absorbed in regular service during the same period?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) 16,712 as on 31st December, 1959.

(b) 1,535 as on 31st December, 1959.