

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, a sum of Rs. 20,000 has been provided by the Bihar Government for gratuitous relief for the sort of cases mentioned by my hon. friend.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, what steps are being taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such hail storms?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I leave it to the hon. Member to suggest remedies.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NEW RAILWAY LINES IN ORISSA

*1139. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether new railway lines are proposed to be constructed from Jagatpur to Kendrapara and from Berhampore to Russelkonda in the State of Orissa; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will these two projects be taken up in the next three years?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise

NEW RAILWAY LINES IN PUNJAB

*1146. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to connect Mukerian to Hoshiarpur and Amritsar to Ferozepore by constructing new railway lines;

(b) whether any representation has been received in this connection; and

(c) if so, the time by which the proposals will materialise?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No

(b) Yes.

(c) These will have to await consideration till projects which have been accorded higher priority have been dealt with. It is regretted that it is not possible to indicate now if and when these two proposals will be progressed further.

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS FOR SISWA-BAZAAR (U. P.)

*1147. **Shri H. S. Prasad:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at Siswa-Bazaar in Gorakhpur District of Uttar Pradesh, many persons have deposited money for having telephone connections; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide them with telephone connections during the year 1953?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes. The installation of the exchange was completed on 30th March, 1953.

(b) Yes, within the course of the next few days, I hope, unless they have been given already.

OVER-CROWDING ON THE ex-ASSAM RAILWAY

*1148. **Shri B. Y. Reddi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to his speech introducing the Railway Budget for 1953-54 and state:

(a) whether the *ad-hoc* Departmental Committee of senior Railway officers to study the travel conditions and passenger amenities on the ex-Assam Railway section of the North Eastern Railway have submitted their report;

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to lay a copy of the Report on the Table of the House;

(c) what action Government propose to take to ease the over-crowding in trains in that region; and

(d) how many extra trains Government propose to start in that region?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Not yet.

(b) The question of placing the report on the Table of the House will receive consideration after it has been received and considered.

(c) and (d). During the calendar year 1952, 14 new trains were introduced on the ex-Assam Railway portion of the North Eastern Railway and the runs of two existing trains were extended. The provision of a through service between Agra Fort and Amin-gaon by extending a train now running between Lucknow and Agra Fort is also under consideration.

Further action will be considered on receipt of the report referred to by the hon. Member under part (a) of the question.

EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE SCHEME

*1150. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to introduce the scheme of the Employees' State Insurance in any of the towns in the Punjab?

(b) If so, when and where?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) It is hoped to implement the Employees' State Insurance Scheme in May 1953 in the towns of Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jullundur, Ambala and Bhiwani, and if arrangements for medical care can be completed by the State Government, also in Batala and Abdullahpur.

"PAPER LINE-CLEAR" SYSTEM

847. **Shri Kandasamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government know that the "paper line-clear" system through telegraph, which is in practice on many railway-lines is a defective and unsafe system?

(b) If so, have the Railway Administration taken any step to replace this system?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir, provided it is worked in accordance with the Standing rules and regulations.

(b) This system is generally in force on Sections of lesser traffic and lower speeds but is being replaced on a programmed basis by the more advanced systems.

DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES IN TRIPURA

848. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government propose to implement the plan regarding development of fisheries in Tripura during the year 1953-54?

(b) What income do Government receive every year from "fishing" specially in the Rudrasagar?

(c) How many big ponds in Udaipur division (Tripura) are fit for Fisheries and had any of them been given to some individuals or parties on lease, for the development of fisheries?

(d) If so, how many tanks were given on lease and to whom?

(e) What amount do Government receive from them every year?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The Fishery Department of the State, which has started functioning only recently, is engaged in formulating schemes for the development of fisheries. These Schemes are expected to be taken up for implementation during 1953-54.

(b) Nil.

(c) to (e). There are twenty big ponds in all in Udaipur division (Tripura), which are at present mostly unfit for fish farming. Three big ponds have however been leased to Tripura Fisheries and Industries Limited on one thousand rupees per annum.

PRICE OF SUGAR-CANE

849. **Shri Balwant Saha Mehta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the sugar factory owners had not paid the price of cane to the growers, last year; and

(b) if so, what amount still remains to be paid off and in what States?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). Out of a total cane price of 64 crores of rupees about one crore still remains to be paid mainly in the States of U.P., Bihar, Madras, Mysore and Pepsu.

POST OFFICES IN U. P.

850. **Shri M. L. Agrawal:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the names of places with Districts, where new post offices have been opened in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1952-53 and the net expenditure incurred in establishing these new post offices?

(b) How many post offices are proposed to be opened in the year 1953-54 in Uttar Pradesh?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 10.]

Most of the post offices were opened during the last 3 months and it is too early to ascertain the traffic and income they have developed. Hence