

BEE-KEEPING INDUSTRY

*1355. **Shri Buchhikotaiiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what steps were taken by Government to improve the bee-keeping industry in 1952; and

(b) whether any proposals were made by the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Bee-keeping recently?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Reference is invited to the reply to Question No. 1347 by Sardar A. S. Saigal answered today.

(b) I am not aware of the proposals referred to but I am writing to the Council to find out what their proposals are.

ANTI-COMMUNIST SLOGANS ON POSTAL COVERS

*1361. **Shri Sarmah:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government allowed certain parties in Calcutta to carry on anti-communist slogans on postal covers as alleged by Shri Hiren Mukerjee in his speech on Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Communications on the 28th March, 1953?

(b) Do Government propose to clarify the position?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) In one case, the Society for the Defence of Freedom in Asia was inadvertently allowed on 12th June 1952 to use a die bearing the slogan "Communism has nothing to offer but chains" in the franking machine licensed by them. No other case has come to our notice.

(b) This was brought to the notice of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 20th February 1953. The Director-General instructed the Postmaster-General, Calcutta on 6th March 1953 to cancel the permission for the use of this slogan. The orders were immediately given effect to.

POSTAL FACILITIES IN LACCADIVE ISLANDS

*1365. **Shri N. P. Damodaran:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the postal facilities available to the people living in the Laccadive Islands, off the Malabar Coast?

(b) What steps are Government taking to provide more postal facilities to these islands?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Prepaid un-registered letters and post cards can be sent at present to the Laccadive islands.

(b) The existing arrangements are being reviewed.

COMMUNICATION FACILITIES FOR LACCADIVE ISLANDS

*1366. **Shri N. P. Damodaran:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the communication facilities now existing between the Laccadive Islands and the mainland of India?

(b) Have Government considered the possibility of connecting these islands with the mainland by air or steamer service?

(c) If so, what are the conclusions arrived at by Government?

(d) Have Government considered the possibility of developing these islands as tourist centres and if so, with what result?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The only communication with the islands is usually by means of 'odams' or country craft.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No.

HEALTH SURVEY OF SCHEDULED AND TRIBAL AREAS

*1368. **Shri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any health survey of Scheduled and Tribal areas; and

(b) if not, when the survey is to be conducted?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) No.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration. The matter is primarily for the State Governments to consider. They will be consulted.

COMMITTEE ON JUTE

*1373. **Shri Rajagopala Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the personnel of the Expert Committee appointed by the Central Government to go into the question of jute production in India?