

men there have got their children to be educated, the question of granting them some allowances may be considered as an important issue.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister has already stated in answer to part (f) of the question, that he is considering these matters.

**LOAN OF WHEAT FLOUR TO FRENCH SETTLEMENTS IN INDIA**

**\*810. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have agreed to a request made by the Government of the French Settlements in India for the grant of a loan of wheat flour; and

(b) whether Government have given this loan and if so, the quantity thus given?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) and (b). The Government of the French Settlements in India had requested the Government of India for a loan of 10 tons of wheat-flour. The quantity asked for was supplied against cash payment.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know, Sir, whether in agreeing to such a request the treatment accorded by the French Government to Indian nationals and the frequent raids which French officers are making into Indian territory are also taken into consideration?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** This is a gesture of goodwill to a neighbour, Sir. Secondly, we try to keep politics above food—I mean food above politics.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** The hon. member forgets that the people who are living there are people we claim to be Indians, and we are taking care of our brethren there by providing them with food.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know, Sir, whether this is one of those 'healing touches'?

**Shri Kidwai:** It is not a healing touch; it is feeding our own men.

**Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** May I know, Sir, whether this policy of kissing the feet that kick us is the normal Gandhian technique of our foreign policy?

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know, Sir, whether it is food above politics or politics above food?

**Shri Kidwai:** I think the hon. member does not claim to say that the Indians who are living there are kicking us. If they are kicking us, then we should have no claim to Pondicherry.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know, Sir, whether any more requests have been made for further extension of this 'good Samaritan' work?

**Shri Kidwai:** Whatever quantity will be required there, we will supply.

**RAILWAY ACCIDENT ON THE KANDLA DEESA RAILWAY LINE**

**\*811. Shri Jasani:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there was an accident to the mixed train running from Adesar to Bhutakiya on the Kandla-Deesa Railway line on the 14th January, 1953?

(b) If so, what was the loss in person and property?

(c) What were the reasons of this accident?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) At about 22-6 hours on 13th January, 1953 two empty wagons on 66 Dn. Mixed Train derailed while running between Bhutakia Bhimasar and Adesar stations.

(b) No one was killed or injured. The approximate cost of damage to Railway property was Rs. 2,200/—.

(c) Breakage of the spring hanger of one of the wagons which derailed.

**Shri Jasani:** How many such accidents have taken place on this line since the inauguration of this new line?

**Shri Alagesan:** I am afraid I require notice.

**INDIAN PHARMACOPOEIA COMMITTEE**

**\*812. Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) when the Indian Pharmacopoeia Committee was formed;

(b) the number of meetings held so far and the dates on which they were held; and

(c) when will the monographs of the Indian Pharmacopoeia Committee be published?

**The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar):** (a) On the 23rd November, 1948.

(b) Three meetings; the first on the 2nd March, 1949, the second on the 27th November, 1949, and the third on the 23rd February, 1952.

(c) They are expected to be received from the Committee in final form in June, 1953. Steps will be taken thereafter for their printing and publication.

**Dr. Amin:** May I know, Sir, how many monographs have so far been finalised by this Committee?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** Six Sub-Committees have submitted their reports and two Sub-Committees have yet to submit their reports, and then they will be finalised.

**Dr. Amin:** I wanted to know the number.

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** May I say that 3 Sub-Committees were formed, out of which 6 have submitted their monographs and two are just about to submit them. Later the entire report will be submitted to the Ministry of Health by the end of June, 1953.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Is it a fact, Sir, that 1007 monographs have already been finalised by this Committee?

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Sir, the answer given does not relate to the question.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question.

#### KANDALA PORT

\*813. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the progress made so far in the construction of Kandala port?

(b) By what time is the sea-borne traffic likely to open at this port?

(c) What is the total expenditure sanctioned and incurred so far?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) All surveys and investigations and a number of preliminary works have been completed. The contract for the main harbour works has been finalised and the contractor's equipment has been erected at site. Construction will commence this month.

(b) Sea-borne traffic is already being handled at the port. The expanded facilities now under development are expected to be available progressively from the middle of 1954.

(c) The estimated expenditure sanctioned for the entire project is Rs. 12.95 crores. The expenditure incurred up to the end of January, 1953 is Rs. 1.88 crores.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** May I know, Sir, what is the number if any, of foreign experts employed in the construction of this port?

**Shri Alagesan:** The Chief Engineer is just now a foreigner and also the Deputy Conservator.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** What are the possibilities of increasing the import and export trade through this port over and above the traffic which is being carried at Bombay, Cochin and other ports?

**Shri Alagesan:** Sir, this port when completed is expected to handle a traffic of 1.2 million tons, and its full capacity may even be 1.6 million tons.

**Shri Gidwani:** Has the actual work of construction started?

**Shri Alagesan:** I have said in my answer, Sir, that the actual construction is starting this month.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know, Sir, what percentage of these 12.95 crores will be spent on foreign personnel and foreign material?

**Shri Alagesan:** No, Sir; not much at all.

#### COCONUT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, ANDAMANS

\*814. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what are the duties of the Coconut Development Officer in the Andaman Islands?

(b) Are there any arrangements for his movements into the areas of coconut plantations?

(c) What are the recommendations, if any, of the officer for developing coconut plantations and exterminating the pests?

(d) What are the steps taken by Government to implement them?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) The duties of the Coconut Development Officer in the Andaman Islands are described in the Statement placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No 40.]

(b) Yes.

(c) The Development Officer joined his post in Andamans at the end of