

operating across India, British Overseas Airways Corporation is the only airline which uses jet aircraft.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
 (c) No, Sir.
 (d) Does not arise.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: In view of this fact and in view of the fact that there are no such aerodromes, may I know whether it is proposed to enlarge the runways?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The runways which are being used by Comets are at Dum Dum, Santa Cruz and Palam. We have already built a new runway at Dum Dum which is 7,000 feet long and it will come into use in a few days time. The others are more or less up to the required standard of length.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether it is true that these jet aircraft when they come near the apron affect the health of the people by the gas emitted by them?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am not aware of any such thing.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am hale and strong. I went in it. Next question.

RURAL POST OFFICES

*377. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many applications for opening rural post offices in Travancore-Cochin were lying with the Post Master General, Madras in January, 1953?

(b) What are the considerations in sanctioning rural post offices in Travancore-Cochin?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 41 on the 31st January, 1953.

(b) The same policy as is followed elsewhere is also followed in sanctioning rural post offices in Travancore-Cochin i.e., a Post office is provided in a village with a population of 2000 and above if the annual loss does not exceed Rs. 750 or where non-returnable contribution is forthcoming.

Shri P. T. Chacko: The idea being to sanction a post office in every village having a population of 2,000, may I know how in Travancore-Cochin where we do not have villages as obtained in other parts of India, rural post offices are sanctioned?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The hon. Member being a Member of the Regional P. & T. Advisory Committee, already

took up this matter as early as 26th October, 1952. This is engaging the serious attention of the P. M. G. concerned and we hope that in the new scheme in which we envisage the opening of post offices to be linked up not only with figures of population but distances also, perhaps the point raised by the hon. Member may be met.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether during last year, "Pakuthys" were taken as the basis for sanctioning post offices, and whether certain "Pakuthys" which are taken as parallel to villages in other parts of India, are about 60 to 70 square miles in extent with a population of 50/60,000?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In the very essence of things "Pakuthys" are not of the same character as villages in the rest of India, and in order to keep to a uniform policy all over the country, we could not make exceptions in their case, but as I submitted earlier, we are trying our revised policy with a view to link up the figures of population with distance, by which these localities might be covered.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the postal authorities were asking for a list of villages from the revenue authorities and the revenue authorities instead of submitting a list of villages, submitted a list of "Pakuthys" where already there were post offices?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are going into too much of details.

CATCH OF FISH

*378. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual catch of fish in India during the years from 1948 to 1952; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there is deterioration in fresh water fisheries and if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Computed figures of total landings of marine fish plus marketable surplus of inland catch of fish are as follows:—

1948	5,22,426 tons
1949	5,49,307 tons
1950	5,98,938 tons
1951	7,34,278 tons
and 1952	Not available.

(b) Since no separate statistics regarding production of fresh water fisheries are available it is impossible to say whether there is any deterioration in them.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know, Sir, the steps so far taken by the Government to increase production in order to have an adequate supply of marine fish?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The Government have been doing all they can. There is a well-regulated programme, and it finds place in the Five Year Plan also.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether two trawlers and certain ships acquired by the Government for marine fishery purposes are functioning economically today or not?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far we are rather new to this process of catching fish, and we have not yet succeeded up to our expectations.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I ask if it is a fact that two years ago the Government of India acquired two such ships for marine fishery purposes?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. I never denied it.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know on what basis the statistics regarding the quantity of fish that is caught that the Minister has given now, are collected?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: As I have stated in the reply itself, these are computed figures. They are mere approximations. It is not possible, with our long coast line, to have accurate figures.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister gave us the exact number of tons of fish caught. May I know which officer is in charge of collecting the statistics, and how such statistics are collected? Are they collected from one end of the country to the other.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We make the utmost possible approximation with the help of all the information that we have. As I said, to give very correct figures is rather difficult. We have tried to be as correct as possible.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I cannot understand the explanation. He said 5,22,426 tons or something like that. If it is an approximation, one can understand his mentioning round figures like 2 lakhs or 4 lakhs tons. That is why I want to know.....(Interruption)

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): It happens that

the total of the States' figures amounts to that.

Shri Dhusiya: May I know if there was any export in the said period?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Only catching fish is here.

DEVELOPMENT OF POTATO CULTIVATION

*379. **Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the centres started in U.P. and Bihar for development of potatoes?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Three centres have been started in each of the two States, as under:

Uttar Pradesh:

State Mechanised Farm, Babugarh, (Meerut District) and Government Agricultural Farms at Lahartara (Banaras) and Saraimiran (Fatehgarh).

Bihar:

Government Agricultural Farms at Kanke (Ranchi) and Museri (Muzaffarpur) and the Bihar Agricultural College Farm, Sabour.

Shri B. N. Roy: May I know whether Government propose to start this development work in Terai areas, especially in Naini Tal in U.P.?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is a suggestion to start two more centres, in the Almora hills in U.P. and at Nestor Hog in Chotanagpur division.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will Government start more centres in Madhya Pradesh also?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not know if the land is particularly fertile for growing potatoes.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will the Government make an enquiry?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Both the hon. Member and the hon. Minister are coming from the same place.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I thought, Sir, there was not much need in Madhya Pradesh to grow more potatoes.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether the potatoes grown in these parts of U.P. and Bihar are equal to that grown in Himachal Pradesh?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the comparative figures. Probably Himachal Pradesh grows it better.