

from the operation of this Scheme have been received by the Government?

Shri Abid Ali: A very large number of applications has been received.

Shri Venkataraman: Has any one of them been disposed of yet?

Shri Abid Ali: Not yet.

Shri Venkataraman: Is it a fact that on account of the non-disposal of these applications for exemption, employees leaving the services are unable to withdraw money from the provident fund, and are put to a great deal of hardship?

Shri Abid Ali: We have not been informed of this position. If it is so, we will do all that is possible to relieve the workers of the hardship.

Shri S. C. Deb: Will the hon. Minister kindly inform us whether any Regional Committee will be instituted in the State of Assam?

Shri Abid Ali: No, Sir.

Shri K. K. Basu: Will the hon. Minister kindly enquire whether in the Calcutta Jute Mills, because of non-disposal of such cases, a large number of employees has not been able to take loans out of the provident fund?

Shri Abid Ali: It is proposed that loan should not be given out of this fund.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any new industry has been brought into the operation of the scheme, since it came into force?

Shri K. K. Basu: My point was that in the case of individual employers, their employees are entitled to take loans out of this provident fund, but because this Act is going to be in force, many of them have asked for exemptions, and no decision has been taken. The whole thing is at a standstill. They are not allowing any loans to be given to the employees, who are normally entitled to them, under the old arrangement.

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir. According to the former system, the money which was collected under the Provident Fund Scheme was being, in some cases, improperly utilised. Therefore the present Scheme envisages that the whole fund should come under the control of the Central Board of Trustees, and loans will not be permitted under this system.

EXTENSION OF TRAINS FROM THAWE TO CHUPRA

***382. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from the Public for extension of the services of 103 Up and 110 Down trains from Thawe to Chupra and Chupra to Thawe on the North Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, whether this question has been examined?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A representation was received by the North Eastern Railway suggesting the stoppage of 15 Up and 16 Down Janata Express trains at all stations between Chupra and Savan or in the alternative the extension of 103 Up and 110 Down trains between Chupra and Savan on the main line.

(b) Yes. It has been decided to provide for the halt of 15 Up and 16 Down Janata Express trains at all stations between Chupra and Savan with effect from 1st April, 1953.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Do the Government know that the Janata Express does not go to Thawe?

Shri Alagesan: I do not know about that particular station, but the representation was for stopping the train in the section that has been mentioned, and from 1st April 1953, the Janata Express will stop at all the stations in this section.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is it the same place as Chapra?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The time-tables are available. Hon. Members may go and see them.

Shri Alagesan: It is 'Chupra'.

CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES UNION

***386. Shri Gopala Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state why the Government of India have not so far recognised the "Civil Aviation Department Employees Union" incorporating the Unions of Aeronautical Communication Employees Union and Aerodrome Organisation of Employees Union?

(b) Have the Government of India got any objection to recognise the Civil Aviation Department Employees Union on the lines of Posts and Telegraphs Employees Union?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The question of recognition of the Civil Aviation Department Employees Union as a service Association is under consideration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question. No. 387.

Shri Gopala Rao rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members must be quick in putting supplementaries.

Shri Gopala Rao: The second part of the question has not been answered? What about the answer to (b)?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Both (a) and (b) I have answered. I will read it out again:

"The question of recognition of the Civil Aviation Department Employees Union as a service Association is under consideration."

Shri Gopala Rao: How long will it take to come to conclusions?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is difficult to give a particular specific date.

Shri V. P. Nayar: How long has it been under consideration so far?

Shri Gopala Rao: Are the Government aware....

Shri Raj Bahadur: Which question shall I answer?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. The matter has been brought to the notice of Government. It is under consideration. Let us proceed to the next question.

MONSOON FORECASTS

*387. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take to convey their monsoon forecasts to the peasantry?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Weather forecasts are broadcast daily in the local languages from 22 stations of the All India Radio in their rural programme for the benefit of the peasantry and also published in the press. Farmers' weather bulletins are also sent by telegram to any person on payment of a monthly subscription.

Shri Heda: Can Government give us any idea about the number of farmers who are getting these bulletins?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is difficult to give any idea of the number of farmers who are taking advantage of these bulletins.

Shri K. K. Basu: How many times the forecasts have been belied by subsequent occurrence?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is in the nature of a forecast?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the monthly charge of these bulletins?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Rs. 12 per month for any person on demand. It is the daily weather forecast—farmers' weather bulletin, and is sent by telegram.

Shri Badshah Gupta: In how many languages are these bulletins printed?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am sorry it is not possible for me to name all these definitely just now. There are about 17 different local languages in which these are issued.

Shri Heda: What is the total number of subscribers to these bulletins?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is not possible to answer.

ANIMAL FOOD HYGIENE (EXPERT)

*388. **Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether an expert in Animal-food Hygiene is shortly expected to arrive in India?

(b) If so, who is he and what is the purpose of his visit?

(c) Which is the agency under the auspices of which he is coming to India?

(d) Will the Government of India incur any expenditure on his account and if so, to what extent?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes. Dr. Horace Thornton, an expert in Animal-food Hygiene arrived in India on the 17th January, 1953.

(b) Dr. Thornton is Chief Veterinary Officer for the City and County of Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, and is the author of two text-books on the inspection of food. While on a previous assignment for the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation in 1951 and 1952, he visited 22 different countries in Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. The objects of his visit are:—

(1) to advise and assist the Govern-