

damage to houses. The State Government have made arrangements for sale of subsidised rice at a cost of Rs. 3,000 and for free supply of rice to 7 families without earning male members at a cost of Rs. 300. A sum of Rs. 49 was given as immediate relief to worst affected persons. The State Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 24,000 under *taccavi* loan.

Floods in Mahanadi.—A breach at Galadhari at Balikuda Police Station affected crops on nearly 300 acres. The State Government have sanctioned Rs. 1,000 for emergent expenditure and an additional sum of Rs. 30,500 under *taccavi* loan. Damage has also been reported from branches of Mahanadi. The State Government have not yet received complete details. The Collectors have been authorised to grant immediate relief and loans. The details of expenditure are not yet available.

Neither this Ministry nor the Ministry of Finance have received any request from the Government of Orissa for any assistance for flood relief.

Shri Sanganna: Do Government propose to give compensation for the loss sustained by the Government of Orissa?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as the Central Government is concerned, the question will arise only after a demand is made by the Orissa Government.

Shri Sanganna: Is Government aware that the properties of Central Government servants are affected, and if so, does the Government propose to grant some amounts for giving relief to them just as they are given in other States which are affected by floods?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Similar treatment will be given on the principles which we have accepted.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PRICES OF COARSE FOOD GRAINS IN SAURASHTRA

*1284. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the

Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Saurashtra consulted the Central Government before deciding to fix the floor prices of coarse food grains with a view to assuring a fair return to the cultivators;

(b) whether the floor prices of coarse food grains have been fixed; and

(c) if so, how these prices compare with the prices prevalent in non-rationed areas of the neighbouring States?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). No floor prices have so far been fixed by the Saurashtra Government for coarse grains. The Saurashtra Government did consult the Central Government sometime back, when they stated, that owing to the expected bumper crop of bajra this year, there was the possibility of open market prices of bajra getting unduly depressed after the harvest. They were advised that they could, in that case, purchase bajra at Rs. 9/8/- per maund to give a support to the prices. The matter is; however, still receiving the attention of the Saurashtra Government.

(c) In view of reply to part (a) and (b), this question does not arise.

RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE,
DELHI

*1293. **Shri Ramji Verma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office of the Director, Railway Clearing Accounts Office, Delhi, was decentralised in July, 1953;

(b) what were the reasons for the decentralisation of this office;

(c) the arrangements that have been made by Government for the absorption of the staff of the said office; and

(d) what are the rules and orders governing the seniority of the staff of the office referred to in part (a)?

above on their absorption by the offices to which they may be posted permanently?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, by two stages, in August 1952 and July 1953.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 31.]

(c) The staff of the Central and Western Railway Sections will ultimately be absorbed on the Northern Railway with the exception of such persons who volunteer to be absorbed on the two Railways.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

बीकानेर डिवीजन में रेलों का समय पर न चलना

* १२९४. श्री पी० एल० बाबूपाल : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि बीकानेर व जोधपुर से आने वाली गाड़ी के यात्रियों को यदि अजमेर या उस से आगे जाना हो तो उन को दिन भर फुलेरा स्टेशन पर ठहरना पड़ता है ?

(ख) यदि हाँ तो क्या इन गाड़ियों का समय बदला जा सकता है ?

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले दो महीनों से उत्तरी रेलवे के बीकानेर डिवीजन में रेल कर्मचारियों की कमी के कारण गाड़ियाँ ठीक समय पर नहीं चल रही हैं ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes in the case of those passengers who arrive at Phulera by 206 Down Agra Express.

(b) The timings are being revised with effect from 1st October, 1953,

as below, to provide suitable connection at Phulera:—

206 Down Phulera arrival 7:24 hrs.

231 Up Phulera departure 7:57 hrs.

(c) No.

राजस्थान में टिड्डी-नाशक कार्यवाही

* १२९५. श्री बलबन्त सिंह महता : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) राजस्थान में टिड्डियों से होने वाली क्षति से बचाने के काम में कुल कितने कर्मचारी लगे हुए हैं ?

(ख) इन में से अधिकारी कितने हैं और स्टाफ़ के आदमी कितने ?

(ग) इस काम पर वार्षिक व्यय कितना होता है ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The number of men employed is approximately 800 including the revenue staff engaged by the Government of Rajasthan on behalf of the Central Government.

(b) The number of officers is 9 and the remaining 791 are of the other ranks.

(c) Rupees 19 lakhs.

RICE FOR MADRAS

*1296. **Shri Raghuramaiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madras have requested the Government of India to allot them additional quantities of rice to meet their commitments arising out of the Godavari floods;

(b) if so, the quantities asked; and

(c) what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 22,000 tons.