

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 8th December, 1953

*The House met at Half Past One
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HIGH DENOMINATION POSTAGE STAMPS

*697. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently instances have been found where high denomination postage stamps on foreign letters posted in street letter-boxes were found to have been removed during the course of their transmission;

(b) if so, what is the total number of cases that have come to notice; and

(c) whether any enquiry is being made into the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) 19.

(c) Yes.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the value of the sums involved in the cases detected so far?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The largest number of cases which have come to our notice was in Delhi. The number of cases was 11 and the total value Rs. 28 only. There were 6 cases in Bombay but the value was very negligible. There was one case in Rajasthan

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and there was one in West Bengal and the value being Rs. 3-12-0.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any persons have been prosecuted on this account and if so, what is their number?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have not been able to lay our hands on the culprits.

FOOD SITUATION

*698. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the overall picture of the prospect of the standing food crops in different States;

(b) whether any estimate of the total area and yield has been made and is available; and

(c) what is the present food situation and future prospects of such of the areas as were affected by floods?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnaappa):

(a) The overall prospects of the standing food crops in the different States are reported to be generally satisfactory.

(b) A statement showing the Preliminary Estimates of acreage under Kharif Cereals is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 1.]

Estimates of Production are not yet due.

(c) The present over-all food position is generally satisfactory. In spite of the floods the crop prospects are not unsatisfactory.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the parts of Mysore, Bombay and Madras States which have suffered from inadequate rainfall, and may I also know whether there has been sufficient rainfall now?

Shri M. V. Krishnaappa: These parts of Mysore, Madras and Bombay States had unprecedented rains this year. Only last year they were scarcity-affected areas.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether in North Bihar there were some areas which were adversely affected for want of rains during the Hathia season?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The hon. Member knows better than I do about the conditions in Bihar.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the estimated percentage increase in production this year over last year's production?

Shri M. V. Krishnaappa: The estimated acreage increase is available. We have not been able to find out the estimated production. It will take some time before we can estimate the production this year.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: The hon. Minister stated just now that certain parts had unprecedented rains this year. May I know whether the rains would spoil the crop or whether it is expected that the crops would be good this year?

Shri M. V. Krishnaappa: Whenever there is heavy or excessive rain, there is some damage also. But the overall picture about production will be brighter than what it was last year.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether there has been any decrease in any of the States in the acreage of land under food crops?

Shri M. V. Krishnaappa: In Bihar, there is some decrease. But in all other States, the acreage is on the increase. I can give the figures.

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

GRAM SEVAKS

***699. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the number of centres opened for training *gram sevaks* for Community development work in various States?

(b) How many trainees have so far passed out from these centres?

(c) Do Government propose to impart at some of these centres longer training for producing agricultural diploma holders?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnaappa): (a) 34.

(b) 2586 upto 31st October, 1953.

(c) Yes, it is proposed to impart training in basic agriculture for a period of one year at 22 of the existing Extension Training Centres.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It has just now been stated that it is proposed to start some basic centres at some of these institutions. May I know whether there is any proposal before the Government to start any new basic agricultural school for giving training in agricultural diploma?

Shri M. V. Krishnaappa: Yes. In addition to the new wings that we attach to the existing extension training centres, we intend to establish 22 new agricultural schools this year.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know where these schools will be established and how many students will be given training in these basic schools?

Shri M. V. Krishnaappa: The number, as I said, is 22. In Bombay we intend to start 2; in Bihar 2; in Madhya Pradesh 2; in Madras 3; in Orissa 1; in Punjab 2; in West Bengal 2; in Hyderabad 1; in Madhya Bharat 1; in PEPFU 1; and in all other States 1 each.