

(c) Are there adequate arrangements in the villages to get medicines for malaria?

(d) If not, will Government consider re-starting the old practice?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) to (d). Information has been called for from the State Governments. A statement containing the information will be laid on the Table of the House after replies have been received from all State Governments.

*** FLOOD BONUS ' IN ANDHRA**

***752. Shri J. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cocanada-Bitragunta passenger train was detained at Rajahmundry for sixty minutes on the night of the 15th November, 1953 owing to a lightning strike by the staff there;

(b) the total number of workers involved in the strike;

(c) whether it is a fact that the staff have been demanding that Government should treat the three months salary advanced to rehabilitate themselves consequent upon the losses suffered on account of floods as "flood bonus"; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government on their representation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, the train which was booked to arrive at 7-35 and leave 8-00 actually arrived at 8-27 and left at 9-30.

(b) Information so far available shows that 267 workers representing the Loco and Medical Departments were involved in the strike. Figures relating to the number of staff of other departments involved in the strike are not yet available.

(c) Government understand that a resolution was passed on 21st September, 1953 by a Committee calling itself

the Flood Victims Committee of Railwaymen, Rajahmundry, demanding that the three months advance of pay sanctioned by the Railway Board should be treated as free bonus.

(d) Government are unable to accede to the request.

RURAL POST OFFICES IN SAUR

***753. Shri Jethalal Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many new rural post offices have been opened in Saurashtra from January to June, 1953?

(b) How many persons have been recruited for these post offices?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Nil. However, there are no villages with a population of 2,000 and above in Saurashtra which remain without a post office.

(b) Does not arise.

RURAL POST OFFICES

***755. Shri Telkhar:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many new post offices will have to be opened to implement the policy of opening post offices in villages with a population of two thousand or above?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): About 10,000 additional post offices will be opened by 31st March, 1956.

PRODUCTION OF CASHEW NUTS

324. Shri V. P. Nayar: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have taken any steps to make India self-sufficient in the production of raw cashew nuts?

(b) If so, what are the broad details of such schemes?

(c) What is the estimated yield of a cashew tree in a year at present?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has