

SEED POTATOES

*1088. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have given any aid to any State Government for preservation and distribution of seed potatoes in cold storage?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): No financial aid is given to any State Government. Under the coordinated scheme for applied research and development on potatoes, technical aid, in the shape of establishment of multiplication centres, has been given to a number of potato-growing States.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know, Sir, the progress achieved by Government in reaching the target of producing 40 lakhs maunds of seed potatoes according to the Five Year Plan?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not know the exact figure of production which we have reached, but the progress is considered satisfactory.

RAYAGADA RAILWAY COLONY

*1090. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal for electrification of the Rayagada Railway Colony in Koraput District (Orissa) is under the consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, what is the stage at which the matter stands?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether there is any such proposal under consideration?

Shri Alagesan: The local authorities there are negotiating to get power for electrifying the colony from a

local sugar factory. We are awaiting the outcome of those negotiations.

Shri Sanganna: In view of the fact that power will be available from Machkund Project, will it not be economical to obtain power from that source?

Shri Alagesan: I should like to have notice of that question.

METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

*1091. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many surface observatories of the Meteorological Department of India have been established in 1952 and 1953 in the Andaman group of islands (year by year);

(b) the names of strategic positions where they are situated;

(c) how many valuable indications of the formation of cyclonic storms were detected and issued from the centres in those two years;

(d) whether one such indication was made when some Members of Parliament were sailing back from the visit of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(e) if so, how the cyclonic storm was avoided?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 6 in 1952 and none in 1953.

(b) Car Nicobar, Kondul, Long Island, Mayabander, Nancowri and Table Island.

(c) These observatories do not issue any warnings themselves in respect of storms, etc. They report their observations through Port Blair to the Forecasting Office at Alipore, Calcutta. The warnings are issued by the Forecasting Office at Alipore. On the basis of meteorological observations received from these observatories as well as from Port Blair and from ships in the Bay of Bengal, the Forecasting Office at Alipore detected the formation of cyclonic storms

and depressions in the Bay of Bengal in 1952 and 7 in 1953.

(d) and (e). Yes. A deep depression occurred in the South Andaman Sea about 200 miles east of Car Nicobar in the early morning of 28th January 1953, a day after the Members of Parliament left Andamans on their return voyage. This depression first moved west, then northwest and finally northnortheast on 29th January 1953 and crossed the **Burma Coast** between Rangoon and Moulmein on the afternoon of 30th January 1953. Warnings in respect of this depression were issued to shipping by the Forecasting Office, Alipore, between 28th January 1953 and 30th January 1953. But it is not known what steps were taken by the Captain of the ship, in which the Members of Parliament were travelling, to avoid this depression.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that Government considered the establishment of a station at Little Island and if so, may I know the reason why it was not established in 1953?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I have said we have got six observatories which are only surface observatories. Apart from these we have an observatory at Port Blair which takes and reports five surface, three upper wind and one upper air temperature observation.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any one of these stations is a radio-sonde station which observes the temperature and humidity of the atmosphere?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir. The Port Blair station makes use of the radio sonde apparatus.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the places which receive the information from the stations in India—in the mainland?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The surface observatories—six of them—take two observations daily and they supply the details of observations to Port

Blair observatory and the Port Blair observatory in its turn informs the Alipore Forecasting Office which collects and collates all these observations and issues them in the form of weather forecast broadcasts.

I. L. O. FELLOWSHIPS

*1094. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons are receiving training at present under the I.L.O. Fellowship Scheme; and

(b) what are the courses of training selected by them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) None.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if there was any scheme under the I.L.O. to send some scholars, and if it was so, why has it been abandoned now?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir; we were asked by the Labour Ministry to send some names for training under this scheme but then they thought that they might be trained under Point Four Programme. There the matter rests and no final decision has been taken.

AIR CRASHES

*1095. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of air crashes involving Indian aircrafts that occurred during the year 1953 and in January 1954;

(b) the companies to which the planes belonged;

(c) the total loss of life and property involved in each one of them; and

(d) the causes of the accidents as found out from the enquiries and investigations?