

(b) since when this programme has begun and where;

(c) whether Himachal Pradesh has received any grant for killing monkeys;

(d) if so, when this grant was made; and

(e) the amount so far given?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. This system has been in vogue since 1947-48, under the G.M.F. Campaign.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In June 1953.

(e) Rs. 18,000/-.

RAILWAY PROVIDENT FUND

***1092. Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is any difference in the percentage of interest paid to ex-Company staff and State Railway Staff on their Provident Fund?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): No, Sir, except that there are some differences in allowing the minimum guaranteed rates.

AIR ACCIDENTS

***1093. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of compensation which Government have had to pay for losses of life, insured and registered articles and other goods, in air crashes after nationalisation; and

(b) the loss by way of destruction of Government property including the value of planes destroyed?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). I lay on the Table of the House a statement giving the requisite information. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 29.]

AGRICULTURAL PUBLICATIONS

***1097. Shri Gopala Rao:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the main object in publishing "Indian Farming" and "Kheti";

(b) the extent to which the object has been achieved;

(c) the total circulation of these publications; and

(d) the cost of production?

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

(a) For disseminating agricultural information of value to the farmers and extension workers.

(b) To a large extent.

(c) Circulation of Indian Farming 5,000
Circulation of Kheti . . . 1,000

(d) Indian Farming . Rs. 1,00,000 p.a.
Kheti . . . Rs. 6,095 p.a.

RICE PROCUREMENT IN WEST BENGAL

***1103. Shri Ramananda Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the free market rice dealers in the rationed areas of Calcutta and industrial areas have been directed to stop procurement of rice from the mofussil districts of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and Assam;

(b) whether it is a fact that they have been directed to procure rice from Uttar Pradesh and overseas; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to re-consider the matter and allow them to procure rice from the West Bengal districts and adjoining areas?

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

(a) and (b). The facts are that, in 1953 the West Bengal Government allowed limited quantities of rice purchased in West Bengal Districts to be moved into Calcutta through trade

for sale to licensed shops. This has been stopped since the 1st of January, 1954. But as an exception to the general rule of not permitting movement of rice from one State to another, except on Government account, trade has been allowed to import certain quantities of rice from Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. Trade can also bring Nepal rice into Calcutta with the State Government's permission.

(c) It is not Government's intention to allow trade to procure rice from the West Bengal districts and the adjacent areas since,

(i) so far as the West Bengal districts are concerned, it had been found by experience that, such unlimited and competitive purchases tend to upset the market and raise prices; and

(ii) with regard to other areas, as already stated, the general policy is not to allow movement of rice from one State to another except on Government account. As the West Bengal Government, however, themselves have procured large quantities of rice from the surplus districts of West Bengal, and as the Centre is prepared to supply Calcutta as much of their requirements as necessary, the question does not arise.

INDIAN TELEPHONE INDUSTRIES LTD.

***1109. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Indian Telephone Industries a large number of automatic screw-cutters (B.S.A. and other makes) are not being used for some time now;

(b) the number of such screw-cutting machines in the factory and their total value and capacity;

(c) what percentage of the capacity has been utilised; and

(d) what is the total quantity of screws cut so far in these automatic machines?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):

(a) 16 out of 61 machines are not being used at present.

(b) 61 machines costing about Rs. 13 lakhs. The capacity is 300 lakh screws and other turned items per annum.

(c) About 50 per cent.

(d) 261 lakh screws and other turned items.

MARSHALLING ARRANGEMENTS AT ACHINERA AND PHULERA

***1114. Shri Waghmare:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to inadequate and improper arrangements of marshalling at Achinera and Phulera stations, large number of wagon-days are being lost; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to stop such practice?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

KAMALPUR-AMBASA ROAD

***1115. Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) how much private land has been requisitioned by Government for the construction of Kamalpur-Ambasa Road in Tripura State;

(b) whether any compensation has been given to the owners of the lands for both land and crop damaged during construction; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to give such compensation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):

(a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.