

of the total population of the country during the years 1949, 1950 and 1951 respectively.

(d) Foodgrains supplied under statutory rationing formed about 7.4, 8.4 and 9.0 per cent. of the total cereals production in India during the years 1949, 1950 and 1951 respectively. Issues under minimal rationing formed about 7.4, 8.0 and 7.0 per cent. of the total produce in India during 1949, 1950 and 1951 respectively.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK INQUIRY COMMITTEE

63. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to part (c) of starred question No. 1904 asked on the 9th March, 1951 regarding Extension of Savings Bank Facilities in all Post Offices and state what action has been taken or is being taken in the matter?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The recommendations of the Committee have been considered. Savings Bank facilities are being provided in all Post offices in rural areas as and when suitable persons are available for appointment as extra-departmental branch postmasters. Suitability of a candidate depends on his solvency and sound financial status.

SPURIOUS DRUGS

64. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sale of spurious drugs in India, and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to root out the activities of spurious drug pedlars?

The Minister of Health (Itajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) and (b). Yes. The Central and State Governments are aware of the problem. The Drugs Act of 1940 is intended to prevent the manufacture and sale of spurious drugs. The State Governments are enforcing the Drugs Act. The question of amending the Drugs Act in order to provide for more severe punishment for such offences is under consideration.

SUPPLY OF WATER TO RAYALSEEMA BY SOUTHERN RAILWAY

65. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern Railway Authorities have arranged to supply drinking water to the famine stricken and draught affected people in Rayalseema, and

(b) if so, on which stations water was made available to the people?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) At Giddalur, Markapur, Cum-bum, Razampet, Yerraguntla, Guntakal, Narasaraopet and also at Tirupattur and Katpadi stations.