

time and I personally hope no private practice will be allowed.

Shri N. S. Nair: May I know whether the Institute will be expected to handle the question of modernisation and re-orientation of the *Ayurvedic* system of medicine?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Well, Sir, on the research side we shall try to do that also.

Shri Nambiar: May I know what steps have been taken to redress the grievances of the students of Indian medicine in Madras in respect of the development of *Ayurvedic* system?

Mr. Speaker: I don't think it directly arises out of it.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know what will be the status and scales of pay of graduates of the indigenous system as compared with those of graduates of the allopathic system?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I don't quite see how it arises from this question.

श्री गणपति राम : क्या आल इण्डिया मेडिकल बोर्ड की ओर से उत्तर प्रदेश में भी कोई ऐसी स्कीम चालू होने वाली है और उस पर कितना खर्च होने वाला है ?

[**Shri Ganpati Ram:** Is there any proposal before the All India Medical Board to start a similar scheme in Uttar Pradesh also, if so, what is the estimated expenditure proposed to be incurred on that?]

राजकुमारी अमृत कौर : हमारा ताल्लुक तो उत्तर प्रदेश से है नहीं ।

[**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** We are not concerned with Uttar Pradesh.]

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know the names of the members of the high-power committee that has been established?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Chairman is Dr Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar. The four Members are: Dr. Jivraj Mehta, Dr. V. R. Khanolkar, Dr. D. N. Bannerjee, formerly professor of medicine at the Patna Medical College, and Dr. D. C. Chakravarti, Principal, Calcutta Medical College. Dr. Raja will be the Member-Secretary. The Committee has power to co-opt.

WEATHER FORECAST REPORTS

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

(a) how far the Meteorological Department of India has helped the Agricultural population in their attempt to grow more food; and

(b) what is the machinery by which weather forecast reports reach the agriculturists living in remote villages?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) It is not possible to say quantitatively how far the activities of the Meteorological Department have helped the agricultural population in their efforts to produce more food. There are however several ways in which the Department gives assistance to the farmer, both in respect of their day-to-day work as also in bringing about an improvement in yield as a long term measure. As an example of the former, the Department issues daily a farmers' weather bulletin giving a forecast of weather conditions with special reference to crops. The long term measure comprises investigations into the relationship between weather and crop yields. This is expected to give information which will be of help in improving agricultural methods.

(b) The Farmers' Weather Bulletin is broadcast by all stations of the All India Radio in their respective regional languages in the rural programmes. They are also supplied free to such newspapers as agree to publish them regularly. Further dissemination of the information to farmers depends on the organisation and facilities available in rural areas. This is the responsibility of the State Governments and the matter has been brought to their attention.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the hon. Minister inform us whether the recommendations of the I.C.A.R. to take over and conduct entirely the Phenology scheme by the agricultural meteorology section has been considered and taken up?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am afraid I shall have to have notice.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How many research workers have been trained at the Central Agricultural and Meteorological Observatory?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I don't quite see how this question arises.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the outlook or forecast of the weather is given to agriculturists on a country-wide basis or on a regional

basis? What is the form in which it is given?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Farmers' daily weather forecasts are broadcast by the All India Radio, and they are also published in the newspapers.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Do these forecasts emanate from more than one observatory, or only one?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Regional observatories send information which is coordinated at the main observatory and issued.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has any effort been made to find out the correctness of these forecasts?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This question had been put before and I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave then.

Shri Beli Ram Das: Is it a fact that the agriculturists cannot take advantage of these weather forecasts, because there is no radio in the villages?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Community sets have been provided in the villages and many agriculturists take advantage of these forecasts from them.

श्री गणपति राम : क्या मंत्री जी बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि मेटेरोलोजिकल डिपार्टमेंट कब से खुला और उस की प्रति वर्ष क्या उन्नति है ?

[**Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the hon. Minister please state when the Meteorological Department started functioning and what has been its progress from year to year?]

Mr. Speaker: It is too general a question to be answered.

Shri K. K. Basu: Way I know whether there is any arrangement anywhere in India whereby the tillers of the soil can get the benefit of these forecasts—I mean, apart from the A.I.R. medium?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This is primarily a matter for the State Governments. What we can do is to publicise to the various regions information about the weather forecasts.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I enquire whether the hon. Minister has got information as to whether every village has been covered by the community radio sets, whether they be distributed by the Central

Government or by the Provincial Governments?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That pertains to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. All I can say is that there are as many as 3847 community sets all over the country.

FISHING

*658. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has asked for light-powered craft from Australia for fishing in the estuarine areas of the Sunderbans;

(b) if so, how many and when they are expected to reach; and

(c) how far the Colombo Plan will help to solve the problems of fishing in coastal areas in West Bengal?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes.

(b) The request is under consideration

(c) There is no plan at present to obtain assistance under the Colombo Plan for fishing in coastal areas of West Bengal but the question will be examined.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any arrangements have been made by the Government of India for the collection and publication of data regarding fish catches made by power-driven vessels in Indian waters?

Shri Karmarkar: This question refers to Indian waters, whereas the original question related to only West Bengal.

Mr. Speaker: I think that he is referring to the Bengal coast.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Yes, Sir.

Shri Karmarkar: So far as Bengal is concerned, I may tell him that the West Bengal Government approached us for obtaining four fishing vessels with necessary equipment. In addition, they have asked for three fishing launches equipped with net, boats etc. In the meantime, they have obtained some and regarding the other demands, the matter is being considered.

Mr. Speaker: I think his question was: What arrangements have been made for maintaining statistics of catches in these areas?