

Shri Raj Bahadur: The revised rates are:

For extra-departmental sub-post-masters and extra-departmental sorters—upto Rs. 40, dearness allowance Rs. 25;

For extra-departmental branch post-masters Rs. 10 to Rs. 25, and dearness allowance Rs. 10;

For extra-departmental Delivery Agents upto Rs. 25, D. A. Rs. 10;

For Extra-departmental stamp vendors upto Rs. 35, D. A. Rs. 10;

For extra-departmental mail carriers and other extra agents upto Rs. 30, dearness allowance Rs. 10.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has any representation for leave—casual or other—been ever considered by the Government?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As a matter of fact, they are governed by their own rules which are framed by the D.G. of P. and T.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Have the Government any idea to incorporate these into the regular line, Sir?

Shri Raj Bahadur: These agents are taken to give the rural areas a better service on a more economic basis. These people are employed on a part-time basis and this practice obtains almost in all countries.

Shri Nana Das: May I know, Sir, whether any minimum qualifications have been fixed for them, what are their service conditions and whether they are liable to transfer?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not think any minimum qualifications have been fixed. But we usually find suitable persons for this work from out of school masters, station masters, retired government officials, shopkeepers and so on and so forth, we take them.

F. A. O.'s PROGRAMME OF SCIENTIFIC PROPAGANDA

*1726. **Shri C. N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state F.A.O.'s programme of Scientific propaganda and how India is benefited by it?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): The F.A.O. organises international Conferences for exchange of scientific knowledge. It issues technical publications containing facts and figures

and scientific information on food, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, nutrition, commodity problems, etc. For the purpose of scientific propaganda it has established Regional Information Centres and the Regional Centre for Southern Asia is located in New Delhi. This centre is publishing two monthly papers, one in English known as 'Memo' and the other in Hindi called 'Patrika' containing agricultural information of interest to member countries. All these benefit Indian scientific and research workers.

Shri C. N. P. Sinha: May I know, Sir, whether there are any scientific experts working in India on behalf of F.A.O. and if so, how many?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, as I said, there is the Regional Information Centre, but regarding the number of scientific experts actually working in India on behalf of F.A.O., I should like to have notice.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether the benefits under these organisations are derived only by the research scholars or they can be derived by the agriculturists themselves?

Shri Karmarkar: As my friend very obviously knows, in the first instance the expert information is collected by expert scholars and later on it is disseminated to the agriculturists proper by the countries concerned.

IMPHAL TOWN

*1727. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred question No. 682 asked on the 10th June, 1952 and state the exact size of area and population of the Imphal Town?

(b) What is the population of Manipuris and non-Manipuris living within the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Imphal?

(c) Is the water supply (piped water) extended outside the Municipal limits?

(d) If so, what is the number of pipes erected outside the said areas?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) According to the 1951 census the population of Imphal Town is 1,32,947; the area of Imphal Town under the Town Committee is half square mile but of Imphal itself is nine square miles.

(b) Figures showing break-up of population into Manipuris and Non-Manipuris are not yet available.