

action taken by Government thereon, placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 31.]

I hope to supply members shortly with copies of the Report.

INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS

*994. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to chalk out a Scheme for International Airways from Imphal to Michina and from Michina to Rangoon and from Rangoon to Hongkong?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): No, Sir.

LOSS OF POSTAL ARTICLES

*996. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an increase in the cases of defalcation or loss of public money including money order frauds or losses, and loss of cash and stamps, recently as compared to previous years;

(b) the number of departmental employees responsible for such cases and if all of them have been suitably punished;

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring down the number of these cases to a minimum; and

(d) out of the total loss, how much has been recovered?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) In 1950-51, 802 officials were involved. Out of these, 130 were convicted by Court;

52 acquitted by Court;

71 dealt with departmentally;

36 absconded or died;

249 were under trial on 31st March, 1951;

264 were the subject of departmental or police enquiry.

(c) Suitable remedial steps are taken from time to time, and deterrent punishments are awarded to culprits. Monetary responsibility is fixed on officials through whose negligence the commission of the fraud is facilitated. Supervising officers who are found slack are also brought to book.

(d) Out of the total loss of Rs. 6,42,176 sustained during 1950-51, a sum of Rs. 81,508 was recovered in 1951-52.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL INTEGRATION IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

*997. **Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federal Financial Integration had been completed in Travancore and Cochin State; and

(b) the criteria for fixing the rank, grade and salary of the State personnel?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Yes.

(b) The rank, grade and salary of personnel absorbed into Central Departments have generally been fixed on the recommendations of Departmental Committees constituted for the purpose and in certain cases, with the assistance of the Special Recruitment Board.

CROP COMPETITION SCHEME

*998. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Crop Competition Scheme sponsored by the Government of India has helped increase in the yield of foodgrains during the last two years in the State of Orissa;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the yield of additional produce during the above period; and

(c) the additional acreage of land brought under cultivation during the above period?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). Unlike works and supplies schemes which directly increase foodgrains production, crop competitions lead to increase in production only in an indirect manner, by fostering healthy competition amongst cultivators and thereby inducing them to achieve higher yields per acre. It is not, therefore, possible to estimate the actual increase in production resulting from these competitions.

In Orissa crop competitions have been organised since 1950-51. For the reasons already stated it is not, however, possible to give any idea of the actual increase in production achieved or of the additional area that might have been brought under cultivation, as a result of these competitions.