

(b) whether there has been any increase in such cases in these areas since regrouping; and

(c) average time taken to dispose of such claims?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The total number of claims received by the Southern Railway from 1st April 1951 the date of regrouping to 31st March 1952 was 48,171. In the case of Central and Western Railways the number was 27,442 and 21,272 respectively for the period from 1st November 1951 the date of regrouping to 31st May 1952, the latest period for which figures are available.

(b) There has been an increase in the number of claims received in the case of the Southern and Central Railways and a slight decrease in the case of the Western Railway.

(c) The average time taken to dispose of a claim by Southern, Central and Western Railways during 1951-52 was 79, 87, 78 days respectively.

STATE OFFICIALS OF MANIPUR (PAY)

*1987. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether State officials of Manipur who were in the service of the State Government prior to the accession of the State to the Union of India are still getting their pay at the same scale as they used to get before accession of the State to the Union of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that these officials will be paid at the Assam Service pay scales; and

(c) if so, from when it will come into effect?

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

(b) The question of revising the scales of pay with reference to the scales of pay attached to posts of corresponding status and responsibility under the Assam Government is under consideration.

(c) The revised scales of pay will be admissible with retrospective effect from the 1st April, 1950 to those officials who are retained in service in the reorganised set-up after proper screening.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT FACILITIES

*1988. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government of India in connection with Agricultural Credit facilities;

(b) the number of Committees constituted, meetings held by each with the results of their deliberations and implementation of recommendations of each one of them, if any, in connection with "long term agricultural credits";

(c) whether there are any special facilities in existence or in contemplation to be given in this connection; and

(d) if so, what are they?

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

The State Governments are primarily concerned with the subject. Action has generally been taken in two main directions, namely—regulation of moneylending by legislation and increasing supply of credit. The development of co-operative societies is being encouraged by giving grants, subsidies, low-interest loans and also by the guaranteeing of debentures issued by Central Land Mortgage Banks. The Reserve Bank of India is helping in the matter by advancing loans to Co-operative Banks at concessional rates of interest and by purchasing certain portion of such debentures of Central Land Mortgage Banks as are guaranteed by State Governments. The States are also advancing loans under Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883, and Agriculturists Loans Act 1884. The Central Government is augmenting the supply of agricultural credit by advancing money to State Governments, for disbursement as loans, subsidies and grants under G.M.F. programmes.

(b) Since 1944, four central official bodies have given consideration to the problem of long-term credit. Information regarding the number of meetings held by them is not readily available. The main recommendations concerning long term credit are given below:

(i) The Agricultural Finance Sub-Committee (1944) suggested that where Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks are well developed, they may continue to supply long-term credit; elsewhere Agricultural Credit Corporations should supply long-term credit.

(ii) The Famine Enquiry Commission (1945) suggested that Land Mortgage Banks should be developed for supplying long-term credit not only for redemption of old debts but also for land improvement and better farming.

(iii) The Co-operative Planning Committee (1945) emphasised the expansion of Co-operative movement as a solution of the problem.