

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) It is intended to take over the existing airfield at Cochin and commission it as an Indian Naval Station.

(b) No firm date can yet be given, but it is hoped to take over the airfield about September, 1952.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** How do Government propose to get the naval aircraft personnel trained? Will they be sent to foreign countries or do Government propose to establish a naval centre here?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The idea behind this Cochin training station is to serve the purpose of training naval personnel, as the hon. Member envisages. As to whether they have to be sent abroad for further training is a matter which will be considered after the initial training.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Is it a fact that some naval aircraft have been ordered to be purchased?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Yes, for the purpose of training a fleet requirement unit is necessary. Certain aircraft have been ordered to be purchased and I think the deal is in course of completion.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** How soon do Government expect that these aircrafts will be received here?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am not in a position to give the exact time but it is expected that operations so far as the training station is concerned will commence sometime in September this year.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether similar facilities will be provided in the Visakhapatnam harbour?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I require notice.

#### DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS

\*157. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the area or areas in the different States of the country where Army personnel have been used since January, 1951 for digging wells and tanks for providing water to the drought-affected people and cattle?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** Rayalaseema in Madras State.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** How many wells and tanks have been constructed by the army personnel?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The work was started during the first week of April and the work turned out up to the 9th May is 35 wells deepened and the work on 16 wells is in progress.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it proposed that this work would be done in other States also?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The question has to be decided according to the nature of the contingencies that develop.

**Shri T. Subrahmanyam:** Is the work in Rayalaseema proceeding?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Not unless conditions have supervened which have made it impossible for the work to be carried on or have made it unnecessary.

**Shri Jangde:** May I know whether Government intends to send army personnel to work in the Sundarban area also?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I do not think the proposal is before the Government.

**Shri B. Shiva Rao:** Will Government consider placing on the Table of the House a detailed statement showing the actual work done by the army authorities in the Rayalaseema area?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I shall convey the request to the hon. Defence Minister.

#### ARTIFICIAL LIMBS CENTRE

\*158. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state if the Artificial Limbs Centre of India is capable of meeting the requirements both military and civil of the country?

(b) How many disabled soldiers and other persons have so far been benefited by such limbs?

(c) Is the Centre likely to be expanded?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) The Artificial Limb Centre, Poona is capable of meeting the present peace time requirements of the military and also, to a certain extent, of the civil.

(b) Disabled soldiers 1893. Civilians. 272.

(c) There is no immediate proposal to do so but civil requirements are