

### RATING SCHOOL

\*901. **Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a "Rating School", to train boys for merchantile marine, is shortly to be established, in the province of Saurashtra, by the Government of India; and

(b) if so, what facilities the Saurashtra Government have agreed to provide to the Government of India in this connection?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Aiyegesan**): (a) The question of setting up an institution for the training of Merchant Navy Ratings on the West Coast is under consideration.

(b) It is understood that the Saurashtra Government have now under consideration the facilities that they can make available in this connection.

### BOMBAY-MANGALORE AIR SERVICE

\*902. **Shri N. P. Damodaran:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) when the proposed air service between Bombay and Mangalore will begin to operate; and

(b) what will be the route for this service and which towns will be touched by this service?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (**Shri Raj Bahadur**): (a) The date proposed is the 1st January, 1953.

(b) Bombay-Mangalore-Cochin.

### FOOD SCARCITY CONDITIONS IN MANIPUR

\*903. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the area in Manipur and the number of people affected there by the recent food scarcity conditions;

(b) the causes of the food scarcity conditions there;

(c) the relief work so far undertaken by the Central Government and non-official organisations; and

(d) whether test relief works are contemplated by Government?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (**Shri Kidwai**): (a) No statistics are available regarding area and number of people affected by recent food scarcity in Manipur.

(b) There were repeated floods in the State in 1932 necessitating resow-

ing twice or thrice with consequent diminution of stock.

(c) By arrangement with the Supply Department of Assam 8,000 mds. of rice were imported from Assam Government stocks for sale in Manipur at subsidised rate of Rs. 15 per md. 1402 mds. of this rice are now lying in Government godowns unsold as there is now no demand for it on account of the price of local rice having meanwhile dropped down to Rs. 10 per md. for coarse varieties which is below the procurement price of Rs. 11 per md.

(d) As there is no scarcity now and the price of rice has dropped down below procurement rate no test works are necessary.

### WASTE LAND (RECLAMATION)

\*904. **Shri K. Subrahmanyan:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the services of any Netherland's expert have been engaged for advice in connection with reclamation of waste land?

(b) If so, what are the terms of his employment?

(c) How much of waste land has been reclaimed so far as per his advice?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (**Shri Kidwai**): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

### BOMBAY TELEPHONE SYSTEM

\*905. **Shri Rajahm:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telephones in Bombay are not working efficiently;

(b) if so, what are the causes; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to expand and renovate the Bombay Telephone System?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (**Shri Raj Bahadur**): (a) They are working fairly satisfactorily but not to the extent required. There have been temporary setbacks due to cable failure during the monsoons.

(b) A large proportion of the exchange equipment in Bombay is old and has outlived its normal life.

(c) New equipment of 6,900 lines has been installed, out of which 3,100 lines has been in replacement of old equipment. Installation of additional 1,400 lines of new equipment is in progress.