

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 Aagesan): (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 1952 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. Subrahmanyam:** (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 Rajahar:** 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.

Order for 7,200 lines has been placed and the Equipment is expected in December, 1953.

BIMLI JUTE:

*906. **Shri Rajagopala Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from the Jute-growers of Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam regarding the marketing of Birml Jute?

(b) Have Government received any recommendations from the Madras Government for the marketing of the Birml Jute and if so, do Government propose to place them on the Table of the House?

(c) Do Government propose to improve the quality of the Birml Jute to the standard obtained in Assam and East Pakistan and if so, how?

(d) Have Government received any recommendations from the Madras Government for the improvement and development of the Birml Jute quality and if so, what are these recommendations?

(e) Do Government propose to place them on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes. The Srikakulam District Jute-growers Association sent a representation to the Government of India in May 1952 making certain suggestions for fixing a minimum price for the crop and enforcing it by compelling millers to purchase the entire stocks from the cultivators.

(b) Yes. I shall consider placing them on the Table of the House after consulting the Madras Government.

(c) Government are already taking steps to improve the quality of Birml Jute. In 1949, experimental cultivation of good quality jute on cultivators' plots was undertaken in the Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam Districts of Madras. The result of these experiments did not prove encouraging. If the contemplated development of the Vamsadhara and Nagavali river projects materialises, it may be possible to take up the cultivation of high quality jute in this part of Madras with success.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

SEAMEN (DISCHARGE CERTIFICATES)

315. Shri Sarupal: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of seamen to whom "continuous discharge certificates" have been given at the Ports of Bombay and Calcutta up to 31st December, 1951; and

(b) how many of these are Pakistan and Portuguese subjects?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The system of issuing continuous discharge certificates to seamen at the Ports of Calcutta and Bombay is a very old one and there are no statistics to show the total number of C.D.Cs. issued so far since the institution of the system. Approximate figures of the Seamen actually engaged in the seagoing profession at Bombay and Calcutta and holding C.D.Cs. are however given below:—

Bombay	38,000
Calcutta	45,000

Out of these, Pakistanis and Portuguese subjects are approximately as under:—

	Pakistanis	Portuguese subjects
Bombay	1,000	12,000
Calcutta	28,500	1,500

A ban was imposed by Government on the grant of new C.D.Cs. from 1947 to April 1950. The number of new C.D.Cs. issued since April 1950 is as shown below:—

Bombay	3746
Calcutta	2338

Out of these Pakistanis and Portuguese subjects are as under:—

	Pakistanis	Portuguese (000)
Bombay	Nil	1088
Calcutta	25	35

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

318. Shri Dabhi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway accidents during the year 1951-52;

(b) the number of persons injured in these accidents;

(c) the number of persons who lost their lives;

(d) the extent of damage caused to Government properties as well as to private properties;