

Willingdon Hospital

*71. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi** : Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the expansion of the out-door patients' Department, the Laboratory, X-ray Sections and the construction of a building to provide more beds in the Willingdon Hospital, New Delhi has been completed?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur) : The extension to the Laboratory and X-Ray Departments have been completed. Some additions to the Out-door Department remain to be carried out. New wards to provide more beds in the hospital are at present under construction.

Central College of Agriculture

*76. **Shri K. P. Sinha** : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1055 on the 10th December, 1954 and state the final decision taken regarding the closing down of the Central College of Agriculture?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : The matter is still under consideration.

Sugar Factories

*77. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad** : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether any foreign firm has been given a licence for the erection of sugar plants in Punjab;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether no Indian firm was ready for erecting such factories?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) No. But Messers Janata Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd., Jullundur, and Messrs Haryana Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd., Rohtak, who have been granted licences for establishment of sugar factories, have placed orders for the supply of their plants and machinery with a foreign firm.

(b) and (c). The offer of the foreign firm was found to be most favourable after taking into consideration the price, delivery period, quality of machinery, etc. although some Indian firms had also tendered for supply of imported plant and machinery.

Wadge Bank

*79. **Shri V. P. Nayar** : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 80 on the 27th August, 1954 and state :

(a) whether the Government of India have since formulated any plans for the commercial exploitation of the fishing bank off the coast of Travancore-Cochin State known as the 'Wadge Bank' under the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the amount proposed to be earmarked for this purpose?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) No; the Government of India have formulated plans for exploratory fishing and charting the fishing grounds in the South West Coast of India, including Wadge Bank for the benefit of private enterprise and not for commercial exploitation by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Automatic Telephone System

*81. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary** : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) when the automatic Telephone system is proposed to be introduced in Patna; and

(b) when the other districts of Bihar will have this system?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) : (a) In 1957/1958.

(b) Muzaffarpur Exchange is proposed to be automatized by 1958. The cases of other District exchange systems for automatization will be considered as and when circumstances justify the same.

Electric Track Circuit

*82. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of stations in the country which are provided with Electric Track Circuit equipment; and

(b) the names of the stations where such equipment is likely to be installed during the current year?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) : (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 22].