

the people that blindness can be prevented by taking due care of the eyes. The Delhi Medical Association also arranged a seminar in which eminent Ophthalmologists took part. Posters on the theme of blindness were also distributed to the various institutions and in Rural and Urban Areas. The Delhi Municipal Corporation arranged a week-long programme of lectures and film shows in the various rural and urban areas.

Madras-Singapore Jet Service

61. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India International has started a new jet service to Singapore from Madras;

(b) if so, what is the weekly frequency of the service; and

(c) what were the main reasons that impelled Government to start the new service?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Air India International have started a weekly Comet service from Madras to Singapore from April, 1962.

(c) Air India International have decided to introduce Boeing 707 jet aircraft on all their services from summer 1962. Since Madras airport is not capable of taking Boeing 707 aircraft, the Corporation have started a new Comet service from Madras to Singapore to meet the traffic demands.

Co-operative Farming Societies

62. Shri Basappa: Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) how many new Cooperative Farming Societies are going to be established in different States in the Third Plan period; and

(b) what is the exact nature of help given by the Centre and the States in this matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) 3180 co-operative farming societies are expected to be organised in the country in 318 pilot projects during the Third Plan. A State-wise break-up of the societies is given in the statement—A. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 13]. In addition, co-operative farming societies are also expected to come up outside the pilot project areas. No targets have been fixed for co-operative farming societies outside the pilot projects.

(b) The exact nature of the assistance given by the Centre and the States to the farming societies is indicated in the Statement—B. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 14].

Parasauni Bund on Gandak River

63. { Dr. Mahadeva Prasad;
Shri Sinhasan Singh:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of the Parasauni bund on the Gandak river to save the last year's flood devastated areas of Gorakhpur district;

(b) whether the said bund as decided in the Patna meeting of the flood control board, will be completed before the rains;

(c) what part of Gorakhpur district is to be benefited by the proposed Gandak-Kosi Project; and

(d) whether Pharendra Tehsil of Gorakhpur district is to be benefited or not?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): (a) The work has not yet been started as possession of the land on which the bund is to be constructed has yet to be taken over from His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

(b) No.

(c) North-eastern part of Gorakhpur District will be benefited by the Gandak Project. No portion of the District will be benefited by the Kosi Project.

(d) Yes.

Rudrapur-Deoria Railway Line

64. Dr. Mahadeva Prasad: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey was done for the construction of railway line from Rudrapur to Deoria via Padrauna to Maharajganj; and

(b) if so, whether any step is being taken to construct the said line?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Hindustan Shipyard

65. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. has recently completed the construction of a big ship "the m.v. State of Punjab";

(b) if so, at what cost; and

(c) what are its salient features?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes. The ship was delivered to the owners, viz., the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. on the 6th April, 1962.

(b) The cost of the ship is expected to be finalised by the end of September, 1962, when the guarantee period will expire. It is expected to be about Rs. 196 lakhs.

(c) The ship is a convertible open/closed shelter decker type, cargo vessel of 12,379 DWT., with 17.2 knots speed. She has 5,000 cu. ft. of refrigerated cargo capacity and is fitted with deep tanks for the carriage of

edible oil. Alternating current, electric equipment of the latest design is provided for all domestic services and deck and other auxiliaries.

Shipping Industry

66. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Industry in India is suffering from lack of technical personnel;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) what action is being taken to improve the situation?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The needs of the Indian Shipping Industry for trained technical personnel were adequately met in 1961. Government are constantly reviewing the position with a view to meet the increasing demand for technical personnel for manning the fast expanding Indian Merchant Navy.

12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

KARNAFULI DAM PROJECT IN EAST PAKISTAN

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding Karnafuli Dam Project in East Pakistan. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 15].

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I have a submission to make about this particular statement. It has come in the Times of India that they are unilaterally commissioning this Karnafuli Dam. I want to know whether they have actually started the commissioning of the dam as they have mentioned in the paper. It is a very serious matter.

Mr. Speaker: The question that is being put is whether they have