

culture. Applied research work has led to the recommendation of a high yielding (101—126 maunds per acre) non-lodging and non-shedding rice variety, Kaohsiung-22, two 2-rowed barley varieties, Rika and Herta, characterised by high yield (40 maunds per acre) and tolerance to rust, three oat varieties giving high yield of grain and fodder, and several introduced varieties of grasses, vegetable and fruit crops for hill areas.

(b) The Laboratory has developed the hybrid V.L. 54 which has been found to be suitable for medium altitudes. Another hybrid, V.L. 109 is reported to have done well at Leh.

Railway Bridge at Madhopur

1366. { Shri Inder J. Malhotra:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Vishram Prasad:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the further progress made in the construction of the railway bridge over river Ravi at Madhopur; and

(b) when it is likely to be completed?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Out of 20 wells, to be sunk for the foundations for piers and abutments, sinking has so far been completed on 7 wells and work on the remaining 13 wells is in progress.

Overall progress of the well foundations is about 70 per cent. Contracts for girders have been awarded and arrangements made for the required steel partly from indigenous steel & partly from imports. However, the imported steel is expected to be received only by the end of the year and fabrication of the girders can commence only thereafter.

(b) On account of the delay in getting the girders, it is expected that the bridge can be completed only by the middle of 1965.

Building for Deoria Post Office

1367. **Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:** Will the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for construction of a new building for Sadar (Main) Post Office Deoria (U.P.) has been under consideration since 1954;

(b) if so, when it will be constructed; and

(c) the rent paid by the Post Office to the Cooperative Bank, Deoria till 31st July, 1963?

The Minister of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The construction work is likely to be completed by April, 1964.

(c) Rs. 18,933-33 nP.

Payment of Rent by P. & T. Officials

1368. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Posts & Telegraphs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Superintendents of Post Offices have to pay rent under F.R. 45-A i.e. 10 per cent of their pay;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the incumbents of such posts in the Kangra Provincial Division have been ordered to pay it on floor area basis; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) When in authorised occupation of Govt. accommodation having an area not more than what they are entitled to, the Superintendents have to pay rent under F.R. 45-A i.e. 10 per cent of their emoluments or standard rent of the accommodation, whichever is less.

(b) and (c). The building was taken on rent to accommodate both office and residence of the Superintendent of Post Offices Kangra Postal Division. Since the residential portion had much more area than what the officer was entitled to, he was

asked to pay proportionate rent. The orders have, however, been held in abeyance and the matter is being re-examined.

Mail for Kangra and Mandi Districts

1369. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Posts & Telegraphs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mails which are despatched to the Kangra District (Punjab) and Mandi District of Himachal Pradesh are accumulated and detained at the Pathankot Railway Station;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the mail is despatched the second day and is received in various regions on the fourth or fifth day;

(c) whether Government propose to open an R.M.S. sorting office at Nagrota Bhagwan in order to arrange early delivery and if so, when; and

(d) whether Government have received any representation for the same?

The Minister of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha explaining the position. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1631/63.]

(c) No. It has been examined and found that earlier delivery cannot be effected by opening an R.M.S. sorting office at Nagrota Bhagwan.

(d) Yes.

Annual Conference of Primary Land Mortgage Banks

1370. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) the observations/recommendations made at the Thirty-second Annual Conference of the Primary Land Mortgage Banks, held in Madras in the 2nd week of June, this year; and

(b) the action being taken in the light of the same?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) A statement giving the gist of the important recommendations is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1632/63.]

(b) The recommendations are under the consideration of the Madras Co-operative Central Land Mortgage Bank which convened the conference. Action will be taken by the State Government on receipt of the views of the Bank.

Diesel and Electric Locomotives

1371. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the progress so far made by the Indian Railways towards the manufacture of diesel and electric locomotives?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): A statement indicating the position is laid on the table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1633/63].

Dakotas of I.A.C.

1372. Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that experts are of the opinion that the Indian Airlines Corporation should not use Dakota aircrafts for passenger traffic; and

(b) if so, the attitude of Government of India in regard thereto?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Tourism in Kerala State

1373. Shri P. Kunhan: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of financial assistance