

(b) what was the number of letters containing such reactions received during the year ending October 1952; and

(c) whether any use is made of these mails for programme planning?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement giving figures for twelve months ending September 1952 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 43]. Figures for the month of October, 1952 are not yet available.

(c) Yes. Listeners' letters are carefully studied both qualitatively and quantitatively. Suggestions contained in these letters are also carefully studied.

DATA REGARDING A.I.R.'S AUDIENCE

45. Sardar Hukam Singh: (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether any survey has been undertaken by the A.I.R. to collect data regarding the composition of the audience listening to A.I.R.'s programmes?

(b) If so, what is the result of that survey?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). No specific survey on the subject has been undertaken, but information on the basis of a random sampling, is being collected with regard to the occupation, mother tongue, length of ownership of a receiving set and type of set owned etc. This information is contained in application forms for radio licenses and, when completed, will yield a picture of the structure and composition of A.I.R.'s listening audience.

RESEARCH IN IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL

50. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of creating non-lapsable funds for experimental research, both basic and applied, in connection with irrigation, flood control and other means for the conservation and utilization of India's water resources has been under consideration;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been evolved;

(c) the nature of research, if any, of a similar nature that is being carried on at present both by the Central Gov-

ernment and the various State Governments; and

(d) what is the amount that is annually spent for the purpose?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). The question has not so far been considered by Government nor has any scheme been evolved.

(c) There are 10 research stations in India at present carrying out both basic and applied research covering a very wide field, namely, river and canal hydraulics, navigation, soil and soil mechanics, concrete and materials of construction, river models, designs of volute syphons, problems relating to irrigation, roads and buildings and housing, ports, harbours, tidal river and estuaries, testing of materials for earth and concrete dams, soil surveys in connection with the agri-irrigational characteristics of soil in the areas, silt investigations, hydraulic models relating to problems on hydraulic structures, mathematics, statistics, physics, chemistry and hydraulic machinery.

(d) The information is being collected from the various authorities and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is collected.

PASSPORTS FOR PEKING

51. Shri Tushar Chatterjea: (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India refused to grant passport to some of the persons who applied for the same for going to Peking to attend Peace Conference there in September, 1952?

(b) What is the principle or rule that the Government of India follow in determining who is entitled to get such passport?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The Government of India received a large number of individual applications and each one of these was considered on its merits. Somewhat later, about the second week of September, 1952, the proposed leader of the Indian Delegation to the conference sent a final list of delegates, observers and secretaries. Out of the 88 names included in the list, 65 were issued passports, and passports were not granted to 23.

(b) Applications for passports are considered by Government on the individual merits of each case. Where it is considered that the grant of a passport is not in the public interest, it is not issued.