

(b) In what other diseases has this drug proved useful?

(c) What are its sources of supply in India and are Government contemplating setting up a factory for its manufacture in India?

(d) At what cost is it available in India?

(e) What steps, if any, Government are contemplating to take to reduce its present price, so as to make it within easy reach of the general public?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shri-mat Choudrasekhkar): (a) Yes.

(b) It has been found useful in the treatment of the following infections:—

1. Bacillary and coccal urinary infections.
2. Undulant fever.
3. Ulcerative colitis.
4. Bacterial pneumonia.
5. Primary atypical pneumonia.
6. Lymphogranuloma venereum.
7. Granuloma inguinale.
8. Typhus.
9. Whooping Cough.

(c) The drug is at present wholly imported and is not manufactured in India. Government have approved the scheme of a private firm to start its manufacture in India.

(d) The market price of the drug is Rs. 26/- per vial of 12 capsules containing 0.25 gm. each.

(e) Government are setting up a Committee of Enquiry to examine the present stage of development of the pharmaceutical industry in the country. This Committee will go into the question of prices charged for essential drugs like Chloromycetin.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

624. Shri M. L. Agrawal: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the General Manager O.T.R. (now N.E.R.) by Notification 1 published in the O.T.R. Special Gazette No. 4 of 1951 dated Thursday, November 8, 1951 invited particulars from former employees of the undivided Government of India who had exercised a final option for service in Pakistan but were compelled by subsequent developments either to leave their posts in

Pakistan or prevented from joining their posts there?

(b) What was the purpose of and object in issuing this notification?

(c) How many persons furnished the particulars demanded?

(d) Have Government considered the cases of such employees?

(e) What decision have Government taken in respect of such employees?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Abheem): (a) Yes. The notification in the Railway Gazette referred to was only a reproduction of the Government's Press Note dated 29th September, 1951.

(b) The Press note was issued to collect certain factual information in respect of the Central Government Servants referred to with a view to examining the question of recognition of de facto reversal of their final options and the financial implications involved.

(c) About 170 non-Muslims.

(d) and (e). Their cases are still under consideration. No decision can be taken until an agreement on a reciprocal basis is reached with the Government of Pakistan.

"GROW MORE FOOD" SCHEMES

625. Shri Kirolikar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether information about figures of actual expenditure from grants and loans sanctioned by the Government of India to the States for "Grow More Food" Schemes has been received from the States;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House the figures of expenditure;

(c) how many Key Farm Centres in Key Village Scheme have been set up in the Madhya Pradesh State and how much subsidy has been given by the Central Government to that State for this purpose;

(d) whether Government have undertaken experiment in ploughing with heavy disc ploughs; and

(e) if the experiment is successful, whether Government propose to purchase heavy disc ploughs for use by the agriculturists?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). Yes.

A statement showing the information as far as available is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No 26.]

(c) The Madhya Pradesh Government did not send any Key Village Scheme for Government of India's approval during 1951-52. The Madhya Pradesh Government has however a Key Village Scheme already in operation in that State.

(d) Yes.

(e) In 1950-51 reclamation season (January to June, 1951) tests were conducted with heavy disc ploughs and disc harrows to assess their utility for eradication of kane weeds. The disc harrows were found to be unsuitable for kane eradication. As for disc ploughs, the experiments with the Towner Disc Plough were successful. It has accordingly been decided to purchase some Towner Disc Ploughs for land reclamation work done by Central Tractor Organisation.

The tests conducted have established the utility of the ploughs only for deep ploughing in connection with land reclamation operations. Tests have not been carried out to determine the usefulness of disc ploughs for cultivation purposes. Hence the question of purchasing them for agriculturists, who require ploughs mainly for cultivation purposes, does not yet arise.

ASSAM RAIL LINK

626. Shri K. P. Tripathi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether in view of the recurring breaches due to floods in the Assam link of the North Eastern Railway, Government are going to re-examine the alignment with a view to finding more dependable route?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Government do not propose to re-examine the alignment of the Assam Rail Link.

CROP AND CATTLE INSURANCE COMPANIES

627. Shri T. K. Kar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government in 1951-52 to save agriculturists from the loss of cattle due to ravages caused by epidemics and the loss of crops due to vagaries of rainfall; and

(b) whether there are crop and cattle insurance companies in India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The State

Governments provide expert veterinary assistance in case of epidemic and to meet the agriculturist's difficulties from loss of crops and cattle they provide taccavi loans.

(b) According to available information, there are no crop and cattle insurance companies in India, but fuller information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House when available.

SMALL IRRIGATION SCHEMES

628. Shri Sivamurthi Swami: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what amount of funds the Hyderabad Government have received for small irrigation schemes from the Central Government for 1952-53?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A grant of Rs. 23,338 and a loan of Rs. 55,00,000 have so far been sanctioned by the Government of India for minor irrigation schemes in Hyderabad State under their Grow More Food Programme for 1952-53.

RAILWAY CLAIMS

629. Shri Garman: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of claims preferred against the present N. W. Railway for shortage, loss and damage of goods and consignments booked to stations on Silliguri-Haldibari Section in the years 1950, 1951 and 1952?

(b) How many court decrees remain to be satisfied upto September 1952 and on how many occasions cash of the Jalpaiguri Station has been attached in execution of decrees in the years 1950, 1951 and 1952?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Presumably the Member refers to the North Eastern Railway and not to the N.W. Railway. The number of claims preferred against the North Eastern Railway for shortage, loss or damage to goods booked to stations on the Silliguri-Haldibari section during the years 1950 and 1951 was 1,325 and 1,270 respectively and 1,114 upto October 1952.

(b) The number of court decrees remaining to be satisfied upto September 1952 was 6 and the number of occasions when cash of Jalpaiguri station was attached in execution of the decrees during the years 1950 and 1951 was 38 and 80 respectively and 46 upto October 1952.