

IRRIGATION SCHEMES

54. **Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total acreage under the various irrigation schemes in India during the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53; and

(b) the estimated production of various crops from these irrigated areas during those years?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). The information required is not available. In 1949-50, the area covered by irrigation was 48.7 million acres. Returns for subsequent years have not yet come in. Separate returns for production of various crops on irrigated land are not kept.

LABOUR DISPUTES

55. **Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of strikes that occurred in the various industrial concerns under the Central sphere during 1951-52;

(b) the number of man-hours lost;

(c) the total production that has been lost; and

(d) the number of disputes that were referred for adjudication during the strike?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

HEAD POST OFFICE, JEYPORE

56. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the date when the Head Post Office was created at Jeypore (Orissa);

(b) the expenditure incurred on the creation of the Head Post Office there; and

(c) the average monthly income and expenditure of that post office?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 1st October, 1952.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

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Pongal FESTIVAL.

57. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 'Pongal' falling in the month of January every year is an important festival to the South Indian Communities but not a Postal Holiday in the Orissa Division;

(b) whether any representations either from the public or the Government officials have been made to Government for declaring it a Postal Holiday; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to declare the day on which the 'Pongal' festival falls, a Postal Holiday in the Orissa Division?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise. Pongal has not been declared as a Postal Holiday even by the Government of Orissa.

I.C.A.R. (RESOLUTIONS)

58. **Shri Chinaria:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how many and what resolutions were passed in the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research held on the 7th January, 1953?

(b) What was the text of the resolution moved by Shri Hira Singh Chinaria?

(c) What steps have been or are being taken to implement it?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Two—one adopting the Annual Report for the year 1951-52 and the audited accounts for the year 1950-51 of the I.C.A.R. and the other on Dry Farming.

(b) The Council is of the opinion that there being a vast area in the country under arid conditions, unirrigated and unirrigable which requires development to bring food self-sufficiency and irrigation projects large and small have their limits, therefore, Dry Farming system be given its due position and share in the Agricultural Research, Education, publicity and propaganda to make arid regions immune from famines through drought and to ensure this—

(1) An expert on the subject be appointed as an adviser with the Government of India.