

(ii) A pilot community project be started in one of the typical unirrigated dry areas to assess the problems of these regions.

(iii) Priority be given to those areas in the Government Development Plans.

(c) *Research.*—A good deal of work has already been done with grants from the I.C.A.R. at the Research Stations in Bombay, Punjab, Madras and Hyderabad on evolving dry farming techniques. The Council is prepared to sponsor further research where necessary to fill any gaps in existing research or to suit local conditions.

Demonstration and extension.—1. A statement showing the project financed by Government of India for applying dry farming techniques in the States was placed on the Table of the House in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 333 by the hon. Member on 14th November, 1952.

2. With the setting up of the country-wide extension service Governments hope to have a wider coverage.

3. A technical Committee has been set up to go further into the question and suggest simple measures which could be readily followed by the cultivator or carried out without much additional cost by the extension staff and voluntary labour where forthcoming in the community project areas.

Publicity and propaganda.—A monograph on Dry Farming has already been issued. It is proposed to issue a hand-book on the dry farming system of cultivation for the use of the extension workers, and a pamphlet on the same subject for the use of the village level workers.

AIR ACCIDENTS

59. **Giani G. S. Musafir:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of air accidents that occurred in the year 1952;

(b) what were the causes of such accidents; and

(c) how many were the casualties?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). I lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the required information. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 12.]

AERODROMES

60. **Giani G. S. Musafir:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many new aerodromes were constructed in the year 1952?

(b) How many new air services came into operation during that period?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Three.

(b) Four.

PROMIN

61. **Shri N. R. Naidu:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Japanese Government have given as a gift to India some boxes of "Promin" claimed to be a specific for leprosy?

(b) Is it also a fact that the Indian Embassy in Tokyo has investigated into the efficacy of the drug and if so, what are the findings?

(c) Has the drug been used in India so far?

(d) Will it be available to the common man and is its price within his reach?

(e) Are any efforts being made to supply the drug freely to *bona fide* patients through established and recognised leprosy clinics?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Some Drugs for the treatment of Leprosy have been received as a gift from the Japanese Government, but the boxes so far received do not contain any "Promin" which is the trade name of an anti-leprosy medicine manufactured by Parke, Davis & Co.

(b) Government have no information about this.

(c) Yes. The use of Sulphone drugs in the treatment of leprosy is already known in India.

(d) Yes. One Indian firm is already manufacturing sulphones.

(e) It is now freely available for use in leprosy clinics.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY BETWEEN SAUJAR AND NARSINGPUR

62. **Shri Syed Ahmed:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the road between Saujar and Narsingpur in Madhya Pradesh is a National Highway?

(b) Are Government aware that this road is in a bad condition?