

(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?

(c) When was this road last repaired?

(d) Have any complaints been received by Government about the condition of this road and if so, what steps have been taken to repair it?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Presumably the reference is to the Saugor-Narsingpur Road. If so, yes.

(b) and (d). Only one complaint from the hon. Member himself was received in November last about the condition of the Narsingpur-Kareji Section which has been taken up with State Chief Engineer.

(c) The maintenance in the form of patch repairs and dressing of side berms is a continuous process and is carried out throughout the year. The wholesale renewal of surface is carried out in rotation by parts every year.

KALKA-SIMLA RAILWAY LINE

63. Shri N. Prabhakar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are running a railway line from Kalka to Simla at a high profit and if so, what is the total amount of profit and railway rates per mile?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The Railway line from Kalka to Simla is run as an integral part of the Northern Railway and no separate statistics of this section are available. The standard rates apply generally over the Kalka-Simla Section but the charges are calculated on an inflated mileage, namely 4 times the actual mileage.

MINIMUM WAGES ACT

64. Shri Raghavaiah: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the industries in which the Minimum Wages Act has been enforced and the dates of such enforcement, State-wise;

(b) the industries in which this Act has not yet been enforced, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government to enforce the Act in the industries referred to in part (b) above?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) to (c). The available information is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix I, annexure No. 13].

Full details have been called for and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

AVERAGE YIELD OF RICE AND WHEAT

65. Shri K. K. Basu: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the average yield per acre of rice and wheat during the last ten years?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Average Yield per Acre of Rice and Wheat in India.

(Based on Official estimates of area and production)

(Lbs.)

Years	Rice	Wheat
1942-43	746	655
1943-44	810	605
1944-45	753	608
1945-46	722	547
1946-47	750	445
1947-48	739	599
1948-49	698	566
1949-50	688	584
1950-51	598	592
1951-52	632	556
Average 1942-43 to 1951-52	714	576

Note : (i) The yield per acre of rice is in terms of cleaned rice.

(ii) The figures for 1951-52 are subject to revision.