

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): So far as the Government of India is concerned, extensive research has been conducted at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, to find out the strength of various timbers suitable for the manufacture of railway sleepers, telegraph poles etc. and to increase their life by pre-treatment and seasoning. The result of such research has been given due publicity.

The Government of India have also requested all State Governments to increase the out-put of timber through (a) planned planting of selected species on an increasing scale, (b) fuller utilisation of mixed forests, (c) reduction of waste in felling and extraction, (d) opening of communications in inaccessible areas, (e) application of modern methods of extraction, (f) cutting losses caused by borers and fungi in timber in transit or storage through prophylactic treatment.

POST OFFICES IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN.

312. Kumari Annie Mascarene: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Departmental Post Offices in Travancore-Cochin State; and

(b) the number of Extra Departmental Post Offices in Travancore-Cochin State?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 232 as on 1st February, 1953.

(b) 702 on the aforesaid date.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

313. Kumari Annie Mascarene: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Telephone Exchanges in Travancore-Cochin State; and

(b) the amount of capital that was taken up by the Central Government at the time of integration of the State Communication?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 29.

(b) The book value of assets taken over by the Central Government at the time of integration of the Travancore-Cochin State communication system was Rs. 48,31,952.

Suk Sagar Jala (TRIPURA)

314. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a *Suk Sagar Jala* in Udaipur Tripura;

(b) whether it is a fact that if this *Jala* is reclaimed, 2,000 acres of land can be brought under cultivation and 2 lakh maunds of paddy raised;

(c) whether it is a fact that the local peasants have made a number of representations; and

(d) whether Government propose to help the local Kisans who desire to take up the work of constructing embankment?

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

(b) Yes, it is expected to yield one lakh maunds of paddy.

(c) Yes.

(d) We have asked the Tripura Administration to examine the proposal.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES IN MADRAS

315. Shri Veeraswamy: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of candidates who registered their names in different Employment Exchanges in Madras State during 1952 for employment;

(b) the number separately of the S.S.L.C., Intermediate and B.A. passed candidates; and

(c) the total number of applicants given employment during the said period?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) 1,89,261 persons were registered in the Madras State during 1952.

(b) The numbers are not readily available.

(c) 36,131 (Madras State only).

POST OFFICES IN SPECIAL AGENCY OF MADRAS STATE

316. Shri Gam Malludora: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of Post Offices that existed in Special Agency of Madras State in 1951-52?

(b) How many new Post Offices have been set up in Special Agency of Madras State during the years 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(c) How many of these new Post Offices are manned by extra departmental employees and how many by departmental employees?