

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) The accident is still the subject of an enquiry to find out as to whether it was caused as a result of weather conditions.

(b) Complete details of the damage caused by the gales in Assam on the 13th March 1953 are not yet available as survey is still going on. The reports so far received by the State Government, however, reveal a loss of 25 human lives and 35 cattle. Thousands of fruit bearing trees, specially betel nut and cocoanut trees, have been uprooted. No dislocation of communication is reported to have taken place except some telegram and telephone connections which were restored immediately. Nearly five thousand dwelling houses have collapsed and several hundred public institutions namely, school buildings, hospitals, dispensaries, etc. were damaged. About twenty thousand people have been rendered homeless. Works Department of the State Government are taking action to repair or reconstruct Government buildings affected by the storms. Local Boards and Municipal Boards are also carrying out necessary repairs to their buildings.

The extent of damage to standing crops was not so remarkable but the subsequent hailstorms of the 20th and 21st March have caused them considerable damage. The damage to properties is estimated at nearly rupees one crore.

Gratuitous relief in the shape of rice, chira, muri blanket and cash was issued in time and is still continuing in deserving cases. The State Government have so far sanctioned rupees twenty-eight thousand as gratuitous relief from the Governor's Assam Earthquake Relief Fund and the situation is being met by raising public subscriptions.

BASIC GRAMMAR OF HINDI LANGUAGE

1268. Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government are going to appoint a Board for the preparation of a basic grammar of the Hindi language?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): In accordance with the recommendations of the Hindi Shiksha Samiti, an Advisory Body set up by the Government of India, a Sub-Committee on Basic grammar of Hindi language has been appointed already and has met in 1952 and 1953.

97 P.S.D.

FORT OF CHITORGARH

1269. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Fort of Chitorgarh in Rajasthan has been declared as a place of national importance?

(b) If so, has its taking over been completed?

(c) If not, when is it likely to take place.

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) Yes.

(b) The process of taking over is being completed.

(c) Shortly.

ECONOMIC BACKWARDNESS IN RAJASTHAN

1270. Shri Gidwanji: (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce has requested the Government that the terms of reference of the proposed committee of enquiry into Saurashtra's economic backwardness should be extended to embrace all Part 'B' States, particularly Rajasthan which is the most backward of these States?

(b) Have Government considered the above request of the Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce?

(c) If so, what is their decision?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). The Chamber had represented that the proposed enquiry should be instituted not only for Saurashtra but for Rajasthan, Madhya Bharat and Patiala and East Punjab States Union also.

(c) Government have appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri N. V. Gadgil, M.P., to enquire into this problem. The Committee is expected to commence its work early next month.

AID FOR TRAINING TEACHERS FOR BASIC EDUCATION

1271. Prof. D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government have given any aid to the Punjab Government for training teachers for Basic Education?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): In 1949-50 a sum of Rs. 60,000/- was paid to the Punjab Government for the training of Basic teachers. No grants have been paid since then for this purpose.