

Indo-Ceylon Air Agreement

1857. { Sardar Iqbal Singh :
Sardar Akarpuri :

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether there are any proposals regarding the revision of the Indo-Ceylon Air Agreement?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) :
No, Sir.

Fruit Research Stations

1858. { Sardar Iqbal Singh :
Sardar Akarpuri :

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Fruit Research Stations are being run by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the names of the places where they are situated;

(c) the total sum spent on these stations in 1955-56 and 1956-57 ; and

(d) the main results achieved by these stations?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) No.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Dam on River Ghaghar

1858-A. { Sardar Iqbal Singh :
Sardar Akarpuri :

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have approached the Government of India for financial assistance in connection with the soil conservation scheme of the dam on river Ghaghar ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Zawar Mines

1859. Shri Bheekha Bhai : Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1154 on the 30th August, 1956 and state how far the demands of the Zawar mine workers have been conceded?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandabhai Desai) : A settlement has since been reached on some of the demands

of the workmen. As for the rest both the workmen and the employe, have agreed to refer them to the Chief Minister of Rajasthan and to abide by his decision.

Guinea Worm

1860. Shri Bheekha Bhai : Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where Guinea Worm is prevalent in the country ; and

(b) the steps taken for eradicating this disease?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar) : (a) The disease is prevalent in the States of Bombay, Madras, Rajasthan, Madhya Bharat, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Bhopal, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Hyderabad, Ajmer and Coorg.

(b) Prevention and control of diseases are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The role of the Central Government is to assist and advise the State Governments and also to promote research. Researches on the evaluation of new remedies in the treatment of guinea worm were undertaken in Rajasthan under a grant from the Indian Council of Medical Research in 1952-53. As a result of this work, guinea worm infestation was found to be common in many parts of Rajasthan and many useful observations were made about the nature of the disease. There are no specific remedies which can kill the worm. However, the combined treatment with myosotibin and streptomycin has shown good results in warding off such infections.

Pharmacological tests with an Ayurvedic drug which has been prepared from the plant 'phycus bengalensis' are at present in progress at the S.M.S. Medical College, Jaipur.

The National Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes in rural and urban areas which are being implemented by the State Governments with Central assistance will greatly help to reduce the incidence of this disease.

Indian Employees of Burma Railway

1861. Shri Tushar Chatterjea : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Indian Nationals released from Burma Railway have been absorbed in appropriate posts in Indian Railways ;

(b) how far seniority of service and grade has been maintained in such cases: