

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) Once a year.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative. Surprise checks are carried out as is necessary.

#### **Weather Forecast**

**2997. Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign experts have suggested that the accuracy of weather forecasts in India can be improved only by studying developments round Indo-Pakistan 'box'; and

(b) if so, action proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin):** (a) The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to a statement made in a recent lecture to the Association of Indian Geographers by Mr. M. E. Webb, Lecturer in Geography at the University of Oxford, who is on a study tour in India. If so, the presumption is confirmed.

(d) The Meteorologists in India and abroad have held a similar view for a long time. The problem, however, involves the establishment of meteorological stations in the neighbouring countries. India has been pressing, for many years, for the establishment of such stations through the good offices of the World Meteorological Organisation and the International Civil Aviation Organisation, apart from bilateral efforts with the countries concerned. There has been perceptible improvement during recent years in the meteorological organisations in the neighbouring countries and India herself has been rendering assistance to some of them by supplying instruments and experts. All these will help in studying developments round the India-Pakistan 'box' and making more accurate forecasts.

#### **Horticultural Development in Manipur**

**2998. Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the sum provided for horticultural development in Manipur during 1958-59; and

(b) the scheme sanctioned and executed?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain):** (a) Provision of Rs. 1,000 has been made by Manipur Administration for horticultural development work during 1958-59.

(b) No special scheme has been formulated by the Administration for this purpose.

#### **Central Women's Advisory Board for Community Development**

**2999. Shri B. C. Mullick:** Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Central Women's Advisory Board for Community Development has been constituted;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) how many times the Board has met since it was constituted?

**The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey):** (a) to (c). A women's Advisory Committee to the Ministry was constituted in July, 1957, and has met once.

#### **Employees on Northern Railway**

**3000. Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees of Class IV appointed by the Northern Railway in the year 1957-58; and

(b) the number of employees among them belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?