

**The Deputy Minister for Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration and has not yet been finalised.

**Manipur State Co-operative Bank**

865. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of **Community Development and Co-operation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Manipur State Co-operative Bank has advanced any loan to Co-operative Credit Societies in Manipur during the last two years; and

(b) how many Co-operative Credit Societies have been set up in Manipur during the same period to utilise the credit facilities available?

**The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy):** (a) Yes; to four agricultural credit societies.

(b) Information regarding the number of societies set up during the past two years is not readily available. However, 35 agricultural credit and multi-purpose societies and seven non-agricultural credit societies have been set up so far.

**Manipur Apex Co-operative Marketing Society**

866. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of **Community Development and Co-operation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the accounts of the Manipur Apex Co-operative Marketing Society at Imphal for the year 1958-59 have been audited; and

(b) if so, the amount of profit accrued from its operations?

**The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No profit; but there was a net loss of Rs. 2,351 (Two thousand three hundred and fifty-one only).

**Airstrip at Bhuntar**

867. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 773 on the 25th August, 1959 and state the further progress made so far for the construction of an airstrip at Bhuntar in Kulu Valley as recommended by the Director General of Civil Aviation?

**The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Moh'uddin):** Certain improvements to the existing landing-ground have been carried out by the Punjab Government and a temporary shed has also been provided there. A Delhi-Chandigarh-Kulu air service was inaugurated on the 3rd October, 1959 on a twice weekly frequency and operated until 2nd November, 1959. The service will be resumed in April next.

In order to facilitate the operation of a seasonal air service, Air Traffic Control and Communication facilities were also provided on a temporary basis and a current weather observatory was opened at Bhuntar.

**Locust Invasion**

868. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States that had to face locust invasion during the period from August, 1959 to November, 1959; and

(b) the loss incurred thereby?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) Rajasthan.

(b) Nil.

**Rural Electrification in Punjab**

869. { **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**  
**Shri Hem Raj:**  
**Shri Daljit Singh:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to refer to the reply

given to Unstarred Question No. 931 on the 17th August, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government has requested for financial aid for rural electrification scheme for the year 1959-60; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) and (b). The State Government have submitted proposals for rural electrification, requiring an outlay of Rs. 1.30 crores. These proposals comprise 115 schemes of electrification under the Uhl and Bhakra-Nangal systems in the various districts of the State. Their requirement is proposed to be accommodated within the total Central assistance earmarked for the Punjab for the year 1959-60.

#### Andaman Forests

**870. Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) at what rate the plywood, Gurjan, White Chuglam, Badam, Red Dhup, etc. in log form from the Andaman forests are sold in the Calcutta market;

(b) at what rate non-ply gurjan and other hard-wood, packing case and the matchwood are sold in the Calcutta market in log form;

(c) what are the royalties chargeable separately on plywood, non-plywood, hardwood, matchwood, for accounting purposes by the Forests Department;

(d) what are the freight and shipping charges per ton on logs and scantlings;

(e) what are the handling and depot charges on logs and scantlings at Calcutta; and

(f) at what rates the scantlings of hardwood, ornamental wood and packing cases are sold at Calcutta market?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) The rates at

present fixed by the Government of India for plylogs supplied to plywood factories, are:—

	Rs. per ton
Gurjan . . . . .	252
Badam, White Chuglam and Red Dhup . . . . .	203

(b) The rates for non-ply logs which are sold by auction at Calcutta are:—

	Rs. per ton	Rs. per ton
Gurjan . . . . .	207.50	to 255.00
Other Hardwood logs . . . . .	125.00	to 217.50
Packing case logs	110.00	to 240.00
Match logs sold at fixed prices to match factories.	178 ex ship and 196.50 ex depot.	

(c) On timber extracted departmentally, royalty is taken into consideration at the same rate as is realised from the lessee of North Andamans, viz.

(i) Matchwoods	41% of the F.O.B. Prices.
(ii) Plywoods	45% Do.
(iii) Hardwood and ornamental woods	50% Do.

(d) The present freight rates from Andamans to Calcutta are:

Logs . . . . .	Rs. 83/- per ton.
Scantlings . . . . .	Rs. 60/- per ton.

In addition, shipping and stevedoring charges for logs and scantlings are Rs. 5 per ton approximately

(e) Logs . . . . .	Rs. 18.50 per ton.
Scantlings . . . . .	Rs. 20.00 per ton.

(f) The prices of sawn timber sold in Calcutta show a wide variation from Rs. 155 per ton for old miscellaneous hardwood short-lengths to Rs. 605 per ton in the case of Padauk scantlings. The prices vary with species, size and quality of timber and also on position with regard to supply and demand. The average price of sawn timber sold in Calcutta is in the region of Rs. 330 per ton.