

that the survey should be taken up in the survey season of 1962-63 and they have been informed that the matter will be placed for consideration before the next meeting of the Hydrographic Survey Committee, which is expected to meet in the near future.

#### Rural Postal Service

**2287. Shri R. Barua:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) how far the scheme for extending rural post offices has helped efficient services;

(b) whether Government have devised ways and means to improve the quality of rural postal service; and

(c) how long the proposal, if any, to rebuild Jorhat Post Office building will take for execution?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):**

(a) With the opening of a large number of post offices in rural areas, the frequency of delivery at villages has appreciably increased and the area and population served by a post office has been considerably reduced. Substantial progress has been made in liquidating No-dak villages and postal facilities have been provided within easy reach of villagers.

(b) Yes, several measures have been adopted such as the upgrading of centrally located branch post offices into sub post offices with a view to improving the mail and financing arrangements for rural post offices, the utilisation of motor routes to secure quicker transmission of mail, prescription of certain standards for the frequency of delivery in villages and training of Extra-departmental Branch Postmasters.

(c) The matter is already under consideration and the execution of work will take some time as certain preliminaries regarding preparation of drawings, estimates etc. are yet to be completed.

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#### Diseases of Trees

**2288. Shri Warior:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether establishment of a Research Institute at Coimbatore to study diseases of trees, especially of sandalwood, is contemplated; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):**

(a) A regional Forest Research Centre has already been established during the second plan period. It has a biological wing at Coimbatore for research work on Silviculture, soil science, forest botany, forest entomology and forest pathology including diseases of sandal-wood.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Training School at Hindustan Shipyard Visakhapatnam

**2289. Shri Warior:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to train a certain number of skilled workers at the Training School at the Hindustan Shipyard, Visakhapatnam for employment later in the proposed Shipyard at Cochin;

(b) if so, the method of selection; and

(c) the number of persons selected so far?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):**

(a) A scheme is being drawn up in consultation with the Hindustan Shipyard, Visakhapatnam.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Shortage of Milk in Delhi

**2290. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state: