

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI.- I havt^ said that it is there.

SHRI G. M. MIR: Then I would like to know the names of the person; who are members of that Committee.

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: The n imes, Sir, I cannot give.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Has the Government examined at any time in the past the question of having a philatelic booth at some of the principal Embassies and the Trade Missions so that foreign interests may be stirred m Indian stamps of philatelic interest?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: Exact! for this purpose we have engagec an agency outside this country. I have already mentioned about it.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJ-PYE; May I know the strength of the Committee because the Minister < ouia not tell us the names?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: Possibly seven Members. I am, however, not very sure.

SHRI BIREN ROY: As there are only bulk vendors, is there any method of checking how much smuggling is going on ten foreign exchange by these people selling the stamps abroad:

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: It is very difficult to say. I do not know how they can smuggle.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: You are expected to know.

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: It has not come to our notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is good that you do not know how they smuggle.

#### PANCHAYATI POSTAL SCHEME

\*172. SHRI A. D. MANI; Will the Minister of POSTS AND TELEGRAPH; be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new scheme called the Panchayati Postal Scheme has been introduced on an experimental basis in Supa area of Poona district; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the scheme and how many letters have been distributed during the three months from the time the scheme was started?'

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) Yes.

(b)A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### STATEMENT

The Panchayati Postal scheme is based 'on the concept of community service and envisages extension of postal facilities such as posting, booking and delivery of postal articles in far-flung, spread-out and backward areas with the joint efforts of the Postal Department and the rural public through their village Pancha-yats. Under the scheme, Panchayati Postal centres are established at focal points to serve as convenient centres of transaction, i.e., for bringing and taking away of mail matter. Each Panchayati Postal Centre caters to a group of villages surrounding it and is manned by an Agent provided by the village Panchayat. Simultaneously the villages served by each centre select a panel of volunteers, who in the normal course visit the centre on marketing or other errands, for depositing and collecting of mail from the centre. The centre is controlled by a nearby post office, whose delivery staff visit the centre <sup>a</sup>t fixed and regular intervals for bringing and taking away the mail matter.

Unregistered mail and intimations for accountable articles are handed over by the visiting delivery staff of the controlling post office to the Cooperative Agent. The residents of the village where the centre is located,

themselves collect the mail from the Co-operative Agent at the centre, while the other villages in the group collect the same through their nominees. The Co-operative Agent is advanced a small sum of postage stamps and postal stationery for sale to the public. A letter box is installed at the centre and the postings therein are cleared and taken away by the visiting official from the controlling post office.

The accountable articles in respect of which intimations were served the previous day, are delivered by the visiting official (i.e. postman or E.D. Delivery Agent) direct to the addressees or their authorised agents, who call at the Centre. The postman or E.D. Delivery Agent also books registered articles tendered by the public at the centre.

Thus the scheme provides the ordinary postal facilities closer at hand to the villagers of the interior who need visit a regular post office only for Savings Bank and Money Order issue transactions.

**Panchayati Postal Scheme at Supa.**— In the Poona Division, Panchayati Postal Scheme has been introduced with effect from 2nd October 1963 in the beat of the village postman attached to Supa sub post office. The beat comprised 35 villages which were getting twice a week service through the village postman. The post of village postman was replaced by three Extra-Departmental Delivery Agents and the Panchayati Postal scheme extended to all the villages in the beat by setting up three Panchayati Postal centres at Bhondewai, Vadhane and Naroli which are visited daily by the three E.D. Delivery Agents. As a result of the introduction of the scheme all the villages got the benefit of daily delivery service and also posting facilities nearer at hand. During the three months of October to December, 1963, 9,967 postal articles have been delivered under the Panchayati Postal Scheme at Supa.

SHRI A. D. MANI: According to the statement, the Government have made it clear that this postal distribution system is being effected in an honorary capacity by the Panchayats. This is a matter of fundamental principle. What was the occasion which made the Government consider and introduce this scheme particularly when staff is available for distributing letters in the areas concerned?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: At present we are going to have one lakh post offices in the country by the end of the Third Plan. But hon. Members know that there are about 5 lakhs of villages in this country. It is not possible to open post offices in all these places. It will be a heavy burden on the tax-payer if we want to open post offices in all the villages. So we want to see if it will be possible in co-operation with the villagers to give the postal facilities or services to all the villages. This scheme depends on the co-operation given by the village people themselves. It will be on a no-cost basis. We hope it will succeed. So far we have received good co-operation from the villagers.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Are insured letters and money orders also distributed through the scheme with the help of the Panchayats?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: So far money orders have not been issued but information that a money order has come to a certain individual is given to the Centre and on receipt of the information, the villager himself comes to the post office or sends somebody authorised to receive it.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Have there been any complaints of infringement of privacy of correspondence against the members of the Panchayat entrusted with the job?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: So far we have received no complaints at all.

SHRI G. M. MIR: May I know in such schemes have been introduced in other places? If not may I know

whether a uniform policy will be followed?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: So far it has been done on an experimental basis, as already mentioned, at Suja in Poona Division, and also at V\*»da, Igatpuri, Aarey Milk Colony and Ahmadpux.

**श्री भगवत नारायण भागवत : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस स्कीम को किसी और राज्य में भी लागू किया गया है या सिर्फ बम्बई राज्य में, महाराष्ट्र स्टेट में ही लागू किया गया है ?**

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: Not j ist at present. We shall see the resjlt of this experiment an<i afterwards only we shall think of extending the scheme to other centres.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARA-NJPYE: Did the idea emanate from the Panchayats or from the Central Government?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: The idea emanated from the Post Master General of Maharashtra, Mr. B Lai. He was in Nepal and some such scheme was introduced in Nepal and it was proved to be very useful.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Is it ;i fact that there is good co-operation being given in Maharashtra?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: Yes.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Is it the idea to extend it throughout Maharashtra?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: We shall watch the success 'of this scheme in these areas and then we will consider.

SHRI OM MEHTA: What is the basis of selecting these districts?.

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: The crii erion is, we have begun it in the far-flung, spread-out and backward areas where there are scattered villages and people are sparsely populated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

\*173. [The questioner (Shri Deoki-nandan Narayan) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1267-68 infra.]

#### YIELD OF SUGARCANE IN MAHARASHTRA

\*174. SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICOXTURE be pleased to state.-

(a) whether it is a fact that the average yield of sugarcane per acre per season is going down since the State Farming Corporation has taken charge of the sugar farms from the private sugar factories in Maharashtra State;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; anrt

(c) what steps Government have taken to improve the yield in future?

THE MINISTER OP STATE IN THE MINISTRY OP FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS); (a) No, Sir.

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

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD; May I know whether it is a fact that no care has been taken by the State Farming Corporation for watering the sugarcane crop and giving manure in due time?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Our information is quite the opposite. Not only have they taken care of the sugarcane farms already taken over, that is, of six factories, that comes to about 36,723 acres, but our information from the Maharashtra Government is that the Corporation has undertaken new cane cultivation of about 8,200 acres of this land.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: The answer to part (a) is 'No'. May I know whether the yield has increased?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: With regard to the question of yield, our information is that it will be known only after the entire crop has been harvested but our information is that the yield hag not suffered because of this.

SHRI D. THENGARI: What other factors are responsible for the deterioration?