

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): (a) No.

(b) In 1951, by the first Forecasting Officers' Conference.

(c) The preparation of the Manual has not been possible as during the last few years new technique of meteorological studies has been introduced, e.g., study of upper flow pattern with high level data, storm detecting radars etc.

The recommendation of the Estimates Committee in their report of 1962, is however, under active consideration of the department.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a fact that the experts have given opinion that a manual of this kind is absolutely necessary?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: Yes, Sir. It is the opinion of the experts. But the basis on which the manual is to be prepared has been fluctuating so rapidly during the last few years by the new method studies that it has been throughout desirable to wait for some time so that the results of these new studies—for example, of the upper air may be available as guidance materials to be given to the forecasters.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether the forecasting officers themselves have brought it to the notice of the Ministry that their work is very much hampered because of want of such a manual?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: I am not aware of any particular forecasting officer having done so. Of course, this question is under the consideration of the senior officers—the forecasters and the Director-General of Observatories—all the time.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: When this question has been before the Government for the last eleven years, may I

know why no positive decision has been possible so far?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: I have given the reasons.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given the reasons.

CONFERENCE OF FORECASTING OFFICERS

\*224. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any date has been fixed for holding the fourth conference of the forecasting officers; and

(b) if so, when and where it would be held?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): (a) and (b) The fourth conference of forecasting officer is likely to be convened in the second half of 1952. The exact date and venue of the conference will be determined later.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether any decision has been taken to the effect that these conferences would be held annually?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: The recommendation of the Estimates Committee is that they should be held once in two years. I hope that it will be possible to hold these conferences every two years; if necessary, at a shorter duration.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is the experience of those attending the conference that these conferences prove useful and that they should be held?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: It is obvious that a conference is always useful.

AN HON. MEMBER: Let us hope so.