

practicable. Red-leaved rice varieties have been developed for Madhya Pradesh and Bihar to make easy hand-weeding of wild rice.

(d) Estimated loss caused by wild rice weeds is 1 to 2 per cent in Bihar, 2 to 3 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, and nearly 10 per cent in Kangra Valley. Loss in small areas in Andhra, Keraia, Bombay and Assam States not exceeding 15 per cent is also reported.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know if this wild paddy has made inroad into the seed farms maintained by the Community Development Blocks?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The origin of wild rice weeds is now traced to cross-pollination of rice varieties by a wild species which grows in ponds and low-lying areas, and we are trying to check the infestation.

**PROPOSAL FOR AMALGAMATION OF I.A.C.
AND A.I.I.**

*155. SHRI BANSI LAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amalgamate the Indian Airlines Corporation and the Air India International Corporation; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to implement the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI BIREN ROY: May I know what is the hitch? Why should they not amalgamate?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: This question of amalgamation has been considered from time to time. Even the Estimates Committee had considered it. We have also considered it, and for the time being at least it

was thought desirable that till further development of aviation for India took place, the question might be postponed. It will be considered whenever it is necessary . . .

SHRI BIREN ROY: Is the only person who is obstructing Mr. Tata?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: No, Sir.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Does the hon. Minister see that amalgamation will help us in reducing the overhead charges of the Corporation?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: I am not sure if the overhead charges will be reduced.

SHRI M. R. BHARGAVA: May I know whether the A.I.I. or the I.A.C. Board have considered this question at any time and whether they adopted any resolution in this connection?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: I am not sure whether they adopted any resolution, but of course I am sure that the members of the Board had considered it at various times because on the Board there is a large proportion of common members.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a fact that the I.A.C. sent a letter to the A.I.I. that the question of amalgamation may be considered?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: I am not sure what letter the hon. Member is referring to. I have not got any knowledge about it. It is a very general question.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Is it a fact that the problems of the two organisations are entirely different and require specific treatment and, therefore, amalgamation might affect this consideration?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: That was one reason for the postponement of the amalgamation.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if the question of amalgamation was considered only by the two respective Boards or by some independent body? It is natural for these Boards to have vested interest in the continuance of the two bodies.

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: I have already stated that the Estimates Com. mittee had also gone into the question. Government is independent of the two.

FINANCIAL LOSS IN SUGAR DEAL WITH U.S.A.

*198. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government have incurred any financial loss during the year 1961 because of sugar deal with United States of America?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS) : Exports of sugar invariably entail loss. The Government had to bear loss on exports in 1961 to United States as well. However the quantum of loss on exports to U.S.A. has been much lower than that on exports to other countries.

DISRUPTION OF TELEGRAPH TRAFFIC

*150. SHRI A. D. MANI (ON BEHALF OF SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE) : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telegraph traffic has been disrupted throughout the whole country since March 8;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this disruption; and

(c) what steps have been taken to restore the normal telegraph traffic?

^tTransferred from the 28th March, 1962.

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

REORGANISATION OF RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE

♦151. SHRI A. D. MANI (ON BEHALF OF SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE): Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the F. J. and B. Divisions of the Railway Mail Service with headquarters at Nagpur, Ajmer and Poona, are to be reorganised; and

(b) if so, what will be the new Divisions of the Railway Mail Service and where the headquarters of the new Divisions will be located?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN): (a) Yes.

(b) The new RMS division carved out of the existing 'B' and 'F' divisions will be called 'F' division with headquarters at Nagpur. The residuary 'B' division will be called *B* division with headquarters at Poona, and the residuary 'F' division with some portions of 'J' division transferred to it, will be called 'MP' division with headquarters at Nagpur. The headquarters of 'J' division will continue to remain at Ajmer.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Why was it necessary for Government to reorganise the set-up when it has been functioning for a long time?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: The hon Member knows as well as I do that Vidarbha has a separate Postmaster General now having also the charge of Bhopal, that is, the new Madhya Pradesh Division. Some part of the Madhya Pradesh Division was also attached to Rajasthan with headquarters at Ajmer. We have brought them all together taking the Ajmer part into the Central Circle, that is, the