

Category I—Cotton with mean staple Length exceeding 1-1/8"

Two or more prizes of the value of Rs. 5,000 each plus a gold medal of the value of Rs. 500 for each person.

Category II—Cottons with mean staple length between 28/32" and 1-1/8";

One award each of the value of Rs. 3,000 plus a gold medal of Rs. 300 for each person in each of the following classes : —

- (a) Asiatic cotton—irrigated;
- (b) Asiatic cotton—unirrigated;
- (c) American cotton—irrigated;
- (d) American cotton—unirrigated.

While evaluating the merits of a strain to qualify for the award, the primary emphasis will be on fibre quality of the strain but due weight-age will also be given to other characters like yield, ginning percentage and resistance to pests and diseases.

The strains entering the competition will be judged by a Committee consisting of the following persons and the strain making the highest score will qualify for the prize : —

1. President, Indian Central Cotton Committee.
2. Vice-President, Indian Central Cotton Committee.
3. Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India.
4. Director of Agriculture of the State concerned.
5. One Senior cotton breeder (to be nominated in consultation with the Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India).
6. Secretary, Indian Central Cotton Committee.

The above Committee will not only judge the merits of the different strains entering the competition, but will also decide the claims of the persons responsible for the production of the strains.

SETTING UP OF HYDRO-METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORIES IN THE HIMALAYAN REGION

84. SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the setting up of hydro-meteorological observatories in the Himalayan region has been completed; and
- (b) if so, what is the number of such observatories and where they will be located?

THE MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI S. K. PATIL) : (a) and (b). Out of a total of 126 observatories to be set up, 84 have been installed so far as detailed below:

Name of country State	Total number of obser- vatories to be set up	Number of obser- vatories set up so far	Number of obser- vatories still to be set up
Nepal ..	61	44	17
Sikkim ..	3	3	..
Bhutan ..	20	14	6
Uttar Pradesh ..	14	14	..
Bihar ..	5	3	2
West Bengal ..	2	2	..
East Frontier Agency Area and Assem.	21	4	17
TOTAL ..	126	84	42

The remaining 42 observatories, *vide* column (4) above, are expected to be installed by the end of March 1958.

: SCHEME TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CARDAMOM GROWERS

85. SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: