

DEVELOPMENT OF POSTAL FACILITIES IN ORISSA

•277. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether Government have taken any special steps to bring the inaccessible areas of the ex-States of Orissa under easier reach for postal communication?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : Yes. the districts of Koraput, Keonjhar, Kalahandi, Bandh-Khondamals, Sundergarh, Dhenkanal and Mayurbhanj in Orissa have been declared as very backward for the purpose of provision of postal facilities and the post offices are opened in these areas up to the loss of Rs. 1,000 per post office per year as against the normal limit of Rs. 750 per annum without any consideration of the number of people to be served or the distance from an existing post office.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know Sir, what is the number of post offices opened during the last five years?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: In Orissa during the last five years the number of post offices opened were as follows: —

1951-52—99; 1952-53—13; 1953-54— 101; 1954-55—253 and 1955-56— 461.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether separate figures are available for the ex-State areas?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: For separate figures for ex-State areas I will have to ask for notice.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know, Sir, whether they employ pigeons to carry messages to the inaccessible areas in Orissa?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That is a device adopted by the police in certain places and not by the post offices.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF RICE MILLING COMMITTEE

•278, SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister for FOOD AND-AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any recommendations of the Rice Milling Committee have now been accepted by Government; and

(b) if so, which are they?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA) : (a) The recommendations of the Rice Milling Committee are still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN : Sir, the Planning Commission in its First Five Year Plan recommended that the huller mills should be replaced by hand-pounding organisations. May I know, Sir what steps are being taken according to it during these four or five years?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: The entire recommendations of the Rice Milling Committee have been sent to the Planning Commission also. They have not given their approval on those recommendations. There are also the rice-growing States, States like Andhra and Orissa, and Andhra, as you know, Sir, is the rice granary of India, and as such unless we receive comments from such a rice-growing State we cannot take any decision on the recommendations of the Rice Milling Committee.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: In the First Five Year Plan of the Planning Commission it was stated that "in the interest of rural employment and to ensure better nutrition, the Government should now formulate a programme for replacing the Huller type of rice mill by organised hand-pounding of rice." Is it not true, Sir?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Based on that recommendation the Committee was appointed to go into the whole

question. That Committee has submitted its Report. The same Report has been sent to the Planning Commission as well and they have not yet accepted it. That is what I have already said.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: When was the Report of the Committee submitted?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: It was submitted in June last year.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know how many new licences to such mills have been given in the year 1955-56?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: It is not we who give licences. It is the State Governments and we have no information about it. But if the hon. Member is interested, I am prepared to get the information from the States.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Is it their policy to recommend the eating of paddy instead of rice on account of dearth of labour for hand-pounding purposes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No answer is necessary.

♦279. [The questioner (Shri Deoki-nandan Narayan) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2679 infra.]

REPAIRS TO THE HERONS OF THE INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION

*280. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hours for which each Heron aircraft of the Indian Airlines Corporation has been in the workshops for repairs since 1st January 1956;

(b) the number of times the Heron-service had to be cancelled due to engine trouble since the same date; and

(c) the number of times other types of aircraft had to be sent for relief of a Heron aircraft stranded at some airport?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :

(a) I lay a statement on the Table of the Rajya Sabha showing the dates on which the Heron aircraft were grounded for repairs and the dates on which they were rectified.

(b) No service was cancelled due to engine trouble.

(c) Three times.

STATEMENT

Dates on which Heron aircraft were grounded and on which they were re-certified

1. Aircraft VT-DHI was grounded on 28th November 1955 due to extensive damage caused by belly landing. The repair and re-certification work is nearing completion.

2. Aircraft VT-DHE was grounded at Jaipur on 5th March 1956 for carrying out major repairs on the Fin attachment frame, etc. The work was completed and the Aircraft re-certified on 11th May 1956.

3. Aircraft VT-DHK was damaged on 1st April 1956 during test flight due to its being hit by vulture. The repairs were completed and the aircraft was re-certified on 12th April 1956.

4. All the 8 Herons of the Corporation were grounded on 31st March 1956 for 2 days for replacing Rudder Tab connecting rod and fork ends in accordance with the instructions from the manufacturers.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know the number of hours for which the Heron aircraft were in workshops for repairs other than those mentioned here in the statement, for other troubles like engine trouble and likewise?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: For that I would have to place a long statement for all the aircraft and that will neces-