

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR): (a) The Russian experts visited Rajgir and Sonar for making a survey of India's resources in natural mineral waters for developing them into Spas.

(b) A report embodying their recommendations was submitted to the Government of India by the Officer on Special Duty of the Ministry of Health who accompanied the Russian experts during their tour.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, if any places in any other States also have been investigated?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: No others were investigated by these experts because they were limited to time; but they have asked for information in regard to other springs too and some information has been given to them and now we are awaiting their next reply.

PROF. G. RANGA: Are Government aware that places like Kourtallam in Tamilnad and Bhadrachalam in Andhra are also supposed to have similar useful and medicinal mineral waters?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: All this information is with the Geological Survey Department and we have suggested that a few centres may be explored further with a view to seeing whether Spas could be developed there.

DEATH OF BIRDS IN AIR TRANSIT

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

(a) whether a consignment of three hundred and one birds for sale as cage birds sent by air to London early in May 1955 was received there with all the birds dead;

(b) whether any effort has been made to find out the cause of the

death of the birds while in transit; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to avoid repetition of any similar tragedy in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) The consignment was not carried by either of the two Air Corporations. Government are not therefore aware of the incident.

(b and (c). Do not arise.

SCHEMES FOR CULTIVATION OF LONG STAPLE COTTON

*311. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes for the cultivation of long staple cotton in India were recently considered by the Indian Central Cotton Committee;

(b) if so, what are those schemes;

(c) what were the recommendations of the committee in connection with those schemes; and

(d) whether Government have taken any decision on the recommendations of the committee?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Yes

(b), (c) and (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Only one new scheme, viz scheme for evolving long staple American cottons for cultivation under irrigation conditions in Bombay-Karnatak at Arbhavi was approved by the Indian Central Cotton Committee in February 1955, for a period of 5 years. The scheme has already been sanctioned by the Government of India.

In addition, extensions for varying periods shown against each of the following existing schemes were also