

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 cotton? 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

approved by the Committee at its meeting in July 1955:

1. *Scheme for breeding American Cotton suitable for Central and submontane districts of Punjab*—2 years from 1st April 1956.

2. *Scheme for breeding long staple cottons in the Punjab*—5 years from 1st April 1956.

3. *Scheme for improvement of long staple American cotton as a winter crop in Central districts and Sea Island cotton in West coast of Madras State*—3 years from 1st April 1956.

4. *Scheme for improvement of Karunganni and Tinnevelly cottons in Madras State*—3 years from 18th June 1956.

5. *Scheme for breeding unirrigated Cambodia cotton in Madras State*—5 years from 16th September 1955.

6. *Scheme for interspecific Hybridisation in cottons at Surat, in Bombay State*—One year from 1st April 1956.

The Indian Central Cotton Committee have not yet applied for the Government of India's sanction to the above Schemes as the financial aspects of their extensions were awaiting scrutiny by the Standing Finance Sub-Committee of the Committee.

DERAILMENT ON THE NAGPUR-CHHINDWARA-JABALPUR LINE

*312. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of derailments on the Nagpur-Chhindwara-Jabalpur line on the Central Railway during each of the months from June 1954 to July, 1955; and

(b) the causes for the occurrence of these derailments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). A statement

is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, Annexure No. 57.]

The Nagpur-Chhindwara-Jabalpur line is on the South Eastern Railway and not on the Central Railway.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: I am glad to know that the hon. Deputy Minister is up-to-date in the Railway Zonal distributions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No compliments, please.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: But is the number of accidents so great that they cannot be mentioned on the floor of the House. Would he at least kindly say what is the number of these accidents?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The hon. Member has not seen the list. It is the property of the House as I have placed it on the Table of the House. What does the hon. Member want?

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: I want the exact number of derailments.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The number of derailments is 34.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: I want to know, Sir, whether the hon. Deputy Minister is aware that all these derailments occur more or less in a limited location, within a short distance of a few miles, and if so, what steps are being taken to avoid them and also whether it is not a fact that the number of derailments has been more during recent times.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: My information is that none of these accidents was serious; they were all minor ones.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: But that was not my question at all.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They were all minor ones, no one was killed or seriously injured