

(Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, for maintaining the production and supply of sugar; and

(b) if so, how many sugar factories have so far been taken over by Government?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) One.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PARENTHOOD

***1311. Shri Doraswamy:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Third International Conference on planned parenthood, recently held at Bombay, made any recommendations to the Government of India; and

(b) if so, what are they?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

PRIVATE PRACTICE BY GOVERNMENT DOCTORS

***1312. Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the answer given to starred question No. 982 asked on the 6th December, 1952, and state:

(a) the names of the States where the private practice has been totally stopped;

(b) whether any of the States have refused to stop private practice; and

(c) whether the 25% of the salary as compensation is paid to the doctors concerned uniformly in all the States or in certain States less compensation or no compensation is paid?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) None.

(b) They are mostly in favour of such a step but they have pointed out certain practical difficulties in the way of immediate application of the policy.

(c) The rate of non-practising allowance varies from State to State.

LEVY ON PADDY

***1313. Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the peasants of West Bengal are agitating against the Kidwai Plan for levy of paddy from peasants having ten acres of land only; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider the matter?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). The arrangements commonly referred to as 'Kidwai Plan' relate to supply of food-grains in the Calcutta Industrial area and the maintenance of issue prices there. If the hon. Member is referring to the procurement system in West Bengal the Government are aware of the agitation against the proposed levy scheme started in a few districts by certain groups of persons, but the general body of producers are not against the scheme. It is not proposed to reconsider the policy underlying the scheme.

AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE SYSTEM IN CALCUTTA

***1314. Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state when the automatic telephone system in Calcutta is likely to start functioning?

(b) What would be the likely expenditure for the completion of the scheme?

(c) Have Government any scheme to absorb the surplus telephone personnel consequent on the starting of the automatic scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The approximate dates of the cut-over of the various stages of the Scheme are likely to be as follows:—

Stage I	Jorasanko	June/July, 1953.
	Avenue Central	
Stage II	Bank	June/July, 1955.
	City	
Stage III	Circus	February/March 1956.
	Russe Kalighat	
Stage IV	Baghbazar	November/December, 1956.
	East Cossipore	
Stage V	Alipore	August/September, 1957.
	Salkia	
	Dum Dum Sibpur	

(b) Rs. 14.5 crores approximately.

(c) Every endeavour will be made to absorb such of the personnel render-

ed surplus at the various stages of the cut-over of the automatic Telephone Exchanges as are willing to accept posts elsewhere in the Department. A Departmental Committee will be appointed for this purpose.

TEA GARDEN WORKERS (RETRENCHMENT)

*1315. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of workers in the tea gardens of West Bengal have been thrown out of employment as a result of the closing down of certain gardens; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to see them employed?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). Precise information about the number of tea gardens which have closed down and the number of workers thrown out unemployed is not available. The Government of West Bengal have been requested to furnish this information as also the steps taken by them to provide alternative employment to the unemployed labour. The Central Government have convened a tripartite conference at Calcutta on the 19th and 20th December 1952, to consider *inter alia* the problem of surplus labour, retrenchment etc. in tea gardens.

FOOD SCARCITY IN SOUTHERN RAJASTHAN

*1316. **Shri Bheekha Bhai:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there has been complete failure of crops in the Southern Rajasthan for the last three years?

(b) If so, how the food scarcity is being removed there?

(c) What grant has been made by the Centre during the last three years?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Kharif crops were damaged to the extent of 8 to 12 annas in the rupee during the last 2 years in the Udaipur Division and in 1951 also in other parts of southern Rajasthan due to deficient rainfall.

(b) The State Government started relief works, opened fair price grain shops and gave *taccavi* loans.

(c) Nil.

STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY BODIES

788. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer given to

starred question No. 1050 asked on the 15th September 1951 and state:

(a) the names of statutory and non-statutory bodies of permanent nature constituted since then upto date under the administrative control of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture giving the following information in each case—(i) date of the constitution; (ii) the recurring and non-recurring expenditure involved; (iii) provision for the audit of the accounts; (iv) the method of submission of the report of their activities;

(b) the names of such *ad-hoc* committees as were appointed during the same period giving the date of appointment;

(c) the names of such *ad-hoc* committees as have finished their work and have submitted their reports during the period giving the dates of their submission of their reports;

(d) the names of such *ad-hoc* committees as are still functioning and the time by which they are expected to submit their reports; and

(e) the names of such bodies of permanent nature of advisory character that have been dissolved during the period?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (d). Four statements are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 2.]

(e) Nil.

STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY BODIES

789. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the answer given to starred question No. 1051 asked on the 15th September 1951 and state:

(a) the names of statutory and non-statutory bodies of permanent nature constituted since then up-to-date under the administrative control of the Ministry of Communications giving the following information in each case—(i) date of the constitution, (ii) the recurring and non-recurring expenditure involved, (iii) provision for the audit of the accounts, and (iv) the method of submission of the report of their activities;

(b) the names of such *ad-hoc* committees as were appointed during the same period giving the date of appointment;

(c) the names of such *ad-hoc* committees as have finished their work