

**Dr. Rama Rao:** May I know, Sir, if any fellowships have been given to do research in India and if so what is the number for 1952 and 1953?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** Fellowships have been awarded by the W. H. O. to people from foreign countries to be trained in India. 12 fellowships were awarded in 1952 and 9 in 1953.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know, Sir, if any scholarships have been awarded for research in tropical diseases?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** No, Sir.

#### FAMILY PLANNING SCHEME

\*678. **Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that two Field Workers have been provided by the WHO in the Population studies conducted under the Family Planning Scheme at Ramnagar and New Delhi?

(b) If so, what work have they been doing so far?

(c) What is the amount spent on them by Government so far on (i) their internal travel, (ii) cost of lodging, (iii) office accommodation and (iv) secretarial assistance in New Delhi and Ramnagar, separately?

**The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar):** (a) Yes.

(b) They are engaged in visiting married couples in the experimental areas for the collection of data and for imparting instructions in the Rhythm method.

(c) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 53.]

**Shri Gidwani:** May I know, Sir, whether any arrangements have been made in all the hospitals of Delhi for opening birth control clinics to prevent growth of population?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Chairman:** I would request hon. Members to just wait and not put the

questions before I call their names. If all the Members stand up and begin asking questions there will be so much confusion.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know, Sir, if there are any figures to show how his plan has succeeded?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** The Interim Report that we received from Ramnagar and New Delhi gave fair hope of success but naturally in experiments like this one cannot give a definite reply for, as I said, the experiment has been going on for a very short time and no conclusions can be arrived at before a period of at least two years of experimentation.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Only recently we have read in the papers the review of the work done in Delhi. It is said that unless education of the people is higher the scheme cannot be successful. As such, may I know how does the Government take up this matter and whether there will be any scheme for imparting education side by side with this.

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** In the centres that are being run by the Central Ministry of Health education is being imparted.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware that there are religious organisations who are carrying on propaganda against the rhythm method of this plan and whether Government are counteracting such propaganda?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** There is no propaganda being carried on against the rhythm method. There are definite objections to other methods which are not being sponsored by the Government.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that hardly 1-2 per cent. of those who come for the first time to clinics go for further instructions?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** No, not at Ramnagar.

DAK Sewak SCHEME

\*679. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of villages in the Punjab, PEPSU and Himachal Pradesh where the Dak Sewak Scheme exists?

(b) Is it contemplated to extend this scheme to these regions?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Nil.

(b) No.

**Prof. D. C. Sharma:** May I know Sir, on what basis the centres for the Dak Sewak Scheme are selected?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** They are selected as an experimental measure to begin with. Unfortunately the results of the experiment, so far, have not borne out the hopes that we entertained about the scheme.

**Prof. D. C. Sharma:** May I know the cause for the failure of this experiment?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It has been found uneconomical. We wanted to combine the duties of a branch post master, mail carriers and a postman into one post but now it has been found more costly. At the same time the balance of convenience, so far as the public is concerned, does not lie in favour of this institution.

**Prof. D. C. Sharma:** May I know, Sir, if there is any other scheme under contemplation of Government which could give the same benefits as this scheme?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Yes. That scheme was announced during the course of the Budget Session. We want in the near future to provide a post office for as many villages as possible so that no person has to go for a post office for more than three miles.

PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

\*680. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how many cheap foodgrains shops have been opened in Agartala and in Refugee Colonies?

(b) Is it a fact that the rice dealers assured all possible co-operation to bring down the prices of foodgrains?

(c) How far have the dealers kept their assurance and what is the present condition?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):**

(a) Eleven cheap grain shops within the Municipal area of Agartala, five outside the Municipality and eight in the Refugee Camps and colonies have been opened by the State Government.

(b) and (c). Yes, the rice dealers are co-operating with the Government and the market price of rice in Tripura is gradually easing down.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** May I know Sir, if it is a fact that rice dealers who gave estimates to the Government have not kept their word? What action does the Government contemplate to take?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** The very fact that they have opened 24 cheap grain shops shows their keenness to bring down the prices and our report is that the merchants are now co-operating and the prices have come down. In the months of January and February 1953 they came down by Re. 1/- per maund. In March-April the price ranged from Rs. 16/- to Rs. 25/- per maund, in May from Rs. 20/- to Rs. 30/8/- and in July it has come down to Rs. 16/- per maund. The merchants are co-operating with the Government.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** From what date are the merchants co-operating?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** From the date that they promised.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** From what month?