NOTES AND NEWS

THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION.

Intimation has been received from the President of the International Meteorological Organisation that the first Congress of the World Meteorological Organisation, of which the Convention came into force on the 23rd March 1950, will be held in Paris in March 1951 and will be immediately preceded by the last Conference of the Directors of the International Meteorological Organisation.

INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION: REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA.

Dr. S.K. Banerji who was elected as the President of the Regional Commission for Asia of the International Meteorological Organisation at its first Conference at New Delhi in November 1948, resigned from this office with effect from the 27th April 1950 due to his retirement from the post of the Director General of Observatories, India. Dr. H.P. Berlage, Director, Meteorological and Geophysical Service, Indonesia, one of the Vice-Presidents, assumed office as President.

INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL COMMITTEE.

On the resignation of Dr. S.K. Banerji from his membership of the International Meteorological Committee due to his retirement from service on the 27th April 1950, Mr. V.V. Sohoni has been elected a Member in the vacancy. This election will be valid until the meeting of the next World Meteorological Congress when new election of all the members is due to take place.

ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY, LONDON.

We have received the news that Dr. S.K. Banerji, D.Sc., F.N.I., who as the then Director General of observatories inaugurated our Journal in January this year, has been elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, London, at its centenary celebrations meeting held in April this year, in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him to meteorological science. He was one of the five foreign Meteorologists to receive the distinction. Indian Meteorologists have reason to be proud of this recognition abroad of work done in India.

ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE.

The Atmospheric Research Committee has been reconstituted by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for a period of three years with effect from the 1st April 1950. Mr. V.V. Sohoni, Director General of Observatories, has been appointed Chairman of the Committee and the following have been appointed as members: (1) Dr. H.J. Bhabha, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, (2) Prof. M.N. Saha, University College of Science, Calcutta, (3) Dr. S.K. Banerji, (4) Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence, (5) Dr. S.K. Mitra, University College of Science, Calcutta, (6) Dr. K.R. Ramanathan, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, (7) Dr. K.S. Krishnan, Director, National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, (8) A representative from the India Meteorological Department, (9) Director, Scientific and Industrial Research (Ex-officio).

RADIO RESEARCH COMMITTEE.

The Radio Research Committee has been reconstituted by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for a period of three years with effect from the 1st April 1950, with Dr. K.S. Krishnan, Director, National Physical Laboratory as Chairman, and the following as members: (1) Dr. S.K. Mitra, University College of Science, Calcutta, (2) Dr. B.N. Baliga, Chief Engineer, All India Radio, (3) Director General of Observatories, (4) Dr. K. Srinivasan, Professor of Communication Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, (5) A representative of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, (6) Prof. M.N. Saha, University College of Science, Calcutta, (7) Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence, (8) Dr. M.B. Sarwate, Directorate General of Civil Aviation, (9) Director, Overseas Communication Service, Bombay, (10) Technical Representative of National EKCO, Bombay, (11) Director, Scientific and Industrial Research (Ex-officio).
VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICES, LODI ROAD, NEW DELHI.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of the Republic of India, visited the Meteorological Offices at Lodi Road, New Delhi, on the 16th September 1950. He was received by Shri A.V. Pai, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of communications and Shri V. V. Sohoni, Director General of Observatories, and explained the various activities, both of these offices and of the department as a whole.

SOLAR AND GEOMAGNETIC PHENOMENA DURING THE PERIOD 1st APRIL-30th JUNE 1950.

During the second quarter of this year, solar and magnetic activities were more or less normal. The only noteworthy feature was a magnetic bay recorded on the H-F magnetogram between 0330 and 0630 hrs. U.T. on 14-4-1950. A fairly large sunspot group in the northern hemisphere at Latitude 13° and very near the Central Solar Meridian was observed on this day. Minor magnetic disturbances were recorded during the period 22nd-25th April and on the 29th May. The spectrohelioscope observations showed bright regions surrounding two spot groups in the southern hemisphere on the former occasion.

SEVERE THUNDER-SQUALL (101 mph) AT BAMRAULI ON 21st MARCH, 1950.

In the evening of the 21st March, 1950, Bamrauli (Allahabad) experienced a severe thunder-squall with a maximum gust of 101 miles per hour, which is the highest speed on the recent records of Bamrauli or Allahabad. A patch of cumulonimbus cloud was noticed at 1830 hrs. IST on the 21st at Bamrauli, and it grew rapidly and covered the sky by 1900 hrs. IST, when lightning was noticed towards WNW. Thunder was heard at 1920 hrs. IST and the first gust of 52 mph of the squall, which was accompanied with heavy rain, commenced at about 1955 hrs. IST. The squall with winds exceeding 40 mph continued for about 20 minutes, the maximum gust of 101 mph which came from north-west was recorded at 2008 hrs. IST. Rain continued till 2040 hrs. IST giving a total fall of 1.3", of which 0.9" was recorded within 15 minutes from the onset of the squall. During the period of the squall the pressure rose by 8 mb.; dry bulb temperature dropped by 11° F and relative humidity rose by 25%.

Although this is one of the most severe squalls ever recorded in the Uttar Pradesh, it appears from newspaper reports that it did not cause widespread damage and that the severity was concentrated to a limited area in and around Bamrauli Aerodrome. A number of houses, telegraph poles and other structures were damaged in this area due to the squall. Two pictures showing the damage to the barracks and the Civil Aviation Training Centre Canteen at Bamrauli and the anemogram are reproduced in figures 1, 2 and 3.
Fig. 1. BARRACKS

Fig. 2. C.A.T.C. CANTEEN

The coastal districts of Tamilnad experienced “Drought” conditions during October to December in 1947 and 1949 due to the failure of the northeast monsoon rains, which normally yield about 60 to 70 per cent of the annual rainfall in the coastal districts and 30 to 40 per cent in the interior. In this connection the rainfall distribution during October-December in the 11 districts of Tamilnad in the three years 1947-49 in detail and of the northeast monsoon rains in the last eighty years in general was examined.

2. A table showing the district average rainfall and the percentage departures for the years 1947 to 1949 is given in the table below.

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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1947</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chingleput</td>
<td>26.83</td>
<td>-68</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Arcot</td>
<td>25.23</td>
<td>-57</td>
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<td>Tanjore</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Arcot</td>
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<td>-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>11.67</td>
<td>-18</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12.27</td>
<td>-37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nilgiris</td>
<td>19.53</td>
<td>-18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. (a) In 1947, the rainfall of the season was generally scanty. The coastal districts got less than 50% of the normal rainfall while in the interior districts the defect was less. The main defect occurred in November and December. There were no cyclonic storms in the Bay of Bengal in these months and even the few depressions which formed did not approach the Madras coast.

(b) In 1948, the rainfall was 20 to 30% in defect in the coastal districts but in the rest of the region, it was nearly normal on the aggregate.

(c) The rainfall of 1949 was considerably below normal in the coastal districts. The coastal districts of the North Tamilnad had less than 50% of normal rain, while those of South Tamilnad had about 60-65%. In the interior, the rainfall was 20 to 30% in defect.

4. An examination of the rainfall during October to December in the districts of Tamilnad during the 80 years 1870 to 1949 shows that in the last 80 years all the Tamilnad districts were very badly affected by “Drought” in 1876, the rainfall being on the whole only about a third of the normal. In the years 1892, 1897, 1904 and 1938 also most of the districts received scanty rainfall, in fact less than in 1947 or 1949. During the period 1875 to 1946 there was no sequence of three consecutive years when the rainfall over the whole area was so deficient as in the years 1947-49. It would also appear that the rainfall during the northeast monsoon season is more variable in the coastal districts than in the interior.

WEATHER, APRIL—JUNE, 1950.

The chief features of the weather during the period April to June were: (i) Scanty rainfall over most of the country during April and the major portion of May; (ii) failure of the monsoon rains in June except in northeast India and along the west coast of the Peninsula; (iii) a cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal early in June which caused considerable havoc in Sub-Himalayan West Bengal.

April.—April was a month of scanty rainfall over most of the country as the usual thunderstorm rains did not occur except on a few days in Assam and the southern parts of the west coast of the Peninsula.

May.—During the first two weeks of May, moderate thunderstorm activity prevailed in northeast India, Mysore and the extreme south of the Peninsula, while elsewhere the spell of dry weather continued. There was an increase in nor’wester activity in northeast India during the third week. During this period, some of the thunderstorms in West Bengal and Chota Nagpur were accompanied by hail and violent squalls. Jamshedpur experienced a thundersquall of 100 mph on the evening of the 18th May. The dry spell over the central parts of the country was broken in the third week when local thundershowers occurred over these regions. In association with a low pressure area which moved from Rajasthan to Bihar between the 18th and 21st, fairly widespread duststorms occurred in east Rajasthan, the Punjab (India) and Uttar Pradesh between 18th and 21st. A hailstorm which swept
over Ambala on the 18th night was accompanied by a squall of 75 mph and is reported to have caused considerable damage to property and crops in that area.

The south west monsoon advanced into southeast Bay of Bengal and the Andaman sea on the 22nd and a depression formed there on the next day. This depression moved up to the west central Bay of Bengal off the Circars coast and became unimportant; but under its influence, the monsoon advanced into Travancore-Cochin on the 27th and into Malabar-south Kanara on the next day. Rainfall was widespread and locally heavy over these divisions between the 27th and 31st. In association with the depression, widespread rain also occurred over the rest of the Peninsula between the 26th and 29th.

June.—The monsoon which had advanced along the west coast up to Mangalore by the end of May extended into the south Konkan by the 3rd of June; but after the 5th it weakened over these regions. A fresh strengthening of the Arabian Sea branch on the 9th carried the monsoon along the west coast up to Surat by the 12th. The monsoon also feebly extended into Deccan (Desh) and Madhya Pradesh on the 15th. However after the 16th of June, this branch of the monsoon became weak and continued so till the end of the month so that most of the Peninsula, the central parts of the country, Gujarat and Saurashtra and Kutch had little rain during June.

The monsoon was ushered into northeast India during the second week of June by a cyclonic storm. This started as a depression in the north Bay on the morning of the 9th, rapidly intensified into a cyclonic storm of small extent by the next morning while moving northwards. The cyclone crossed the coast to the east of Saugor Island on the 10th afternoon and weakening rapidly broke up against the Nepal hills by the 13th. In association with the storm, the monsoon extended into West Bengal on the 11th and over the whole of north east India by the next day. Very heavy rain occurred in Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and east Bihar between the 12th and 14th. Darjeeling was cut off from the rest of the country on account of landslides due to the heavy rains. Most areas of the town of Jalpaiguri were submerged underwater for a number of days and food and other necessities of daily life had to be dropped from air for the struck citizens of that town. Losses in property in these regions were estimated at several lakhs of rupees. The moist air brought in by the storm resulted in good thunderstorm rain in Madhya Pradesh and east Uttar Pradesh during the middle of June.

Except for a temporary lull between the 16th and 22nd, the monsoon continued active in northeast India till the end of June. It extended into east Uttar Pradesh on the 26th and remained active over that division also till the end of the month.

At the end of June, the position with regard to the monsoon was that the whole of the Peninsula and the central parts of the country had deficient or scanty rainfall, while among the regions served by the Bay of Bengal branch current of the monsoon, rainfall was normal or in excess in northeast India and east Uttar Pradesh.

OBITUARY

We regret to report the death of Shri Raghunathrao V. Badami, M.Sc., Assistant Meteorologist on 30th July 1960, after a brief illness, which brought a promising career to untimely end.

Shri Badami was born in May 1917 and after a brilliant career took his M.Sc. Degree in Mathematics from the Central College, Bangalore in 1938. While in the college he was a keen debater and was connected with various literary and scientific activities. After serving for sometime as a lecturer in Mathematics in the University of Mysore and in the Survey of India, he joined the India Meteorological Department in December 1942. In the department he worked mainly in Forecasting Offices and had gained considerable experience. He was an energetic and enthusiastic officer and was popular amongst his colleagues. In June 1947, he accompanied the Snow Survey Expedition in the Nepal-Sikkim-Himalayas led by Dr. J.E. Church, the American Snow Survey Expert. He was also a member of the expedition party which proceeded to Garhwal Himalayas in June 1948 for selecting a site for the proposed High Altitude Observatory. He proved himself a keen mountaineer.

In August 1949, his services were lent to the Nautical and Marine Engineering College, Bombay, under the Ministry of Commerce where he worked as a lecturer in Mathematics and Meteorology until his last illness.