

WEATHER BULLETINS FOR FARMERS—SECOND STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

How best an efficient weather service can be rendered to the farmers is still in an experimental stage. The problem involves preparation of news in the local language for the farmers regarding important events of weather, which affect sowing, growth of the plants and harvesting operations and their countrywide dissemination. One of the essential features of the 1945 scheme was the division of the country into seven meteorological regions of which five with headquarters at Calcutta, Delhi, Nagpur, Bombay and Madras remain in post-partition India. This regional organisation greatly facilitated the regular issue from July 1945 of Weather Bulletin for farmers from the Regional Forecasting Centres at Delhi, Calcutta, Nagpur, Bombay and Madras for broadcasts in the different Indian languages in the rural programmes from the stations of the All-India Radio. These Bulletins were also issued as express press messages for publication in newspapers throughout the country.

Though these bulletins are solely intended for the rural public, most of them had no access to them for lack of radio receivers. The newspapers are also too late in reaching villages.

This system to be really efficient must depend on the provision of a radio reception set in each village.

Pending this development, it has been planned to send out as express press telegrams to all those villages where there are telegraph offices, important news relating to—

- (a) Onset of rain at the time of sowing,
- (b) Floods or long break in rain during the growth of crop,
- (c) Any rain, however small, during harvest time.

During winter months farmers are also to be warned regarding possible occurrence of frost.