

INTRODUCTION OF REVISED TIME OF RAINFALL OBSERVATIONS IN INDIA.

When the system of rainfall registration in the different provinces and states of India was unified under the technical direction of the Director General of Observatories in 1888, the time of rainfall observations was fixed at 8 a.m. local time to make it

conform to the time at which observations were being recorded at Meteorological observatories in India in the morning. This time of meteorological observations was changed to 0800 hrs. I. S. T. on 1st. January, 1943 to meet the requirements of aviation for which strictly simultaneous or synoptic observations are more useful than those taken according to local time which vary from place to place. From 1st. March, 1949 this time of met. observation has been changed to 0830 hrs. I. S. T. to make it conform to 0300 hrs. G. M. T. which has been fixed by the International Meteorological Organisation as one of the eight standard times of observations throughout the world.

When the time of meteorological observations was changed from 8 hrs. L. T. to 0800 hrs. I. S. T. in 1943, the time of rainfall registration at the provincial rain gauge stations was not changed correspondingly as the adoption of 0800 hrs. I. S. T. for meteorological observations was only provisional. Now as 0300 hrs. G. M. T. (or 0830 hrs. I. S. T.) has been adopted as the principal hour of met. observations in India on a permanent basis, it has been found necessary to adopt this hour as the time for rainfall registration at all rain gauge stations in India. The Director General of Observatories has, therefore, with the concurrence of the Government of India, requested the authorities controlling the rain gauge stations in the provinces and the States to adopt 0830 hrs. I. S. T. as the standard time for rainfall registration from 1st. January 1950, and this change in time was agreed to by all concerned.