

ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE INDIA METEOROLOGICAL
DEPARTMENT FOR 1948—49.

The Administration Report of the India Meteorological Department for 1948—49 shows that the department made all round progress during the year. Eight new surface observatories and one new pilot balloon observatory were established during the year. At the close of the year the department had 232 surface, 47 pilot balloon and 10 radiosonde observatories. About 60 ships were recruited during the year and provided with tested meteorological instruments to constitute the Indian Voluntary Observing Fleet for reporting meteorological observations from Indian Waters as mobile observatories. From 1st March 1949 the number of surface observations was increased from 3 to 5 per diem and the times of surface, pilot balloon and radiosonde observations were changed to make them conform to internationally recommended hours. New international Codes for reporting observations were adopted from 1st January 1949.

The forecasting and air-route organisation at the end of the year consisted of 1 Central Weather Office at Poona, 5 Regional Forecast Centres, 7 Dependent Forecast Centres, 9 Auxiliary Centres, 24 Type--D Centres and 7 Current Weather Reporting Stations. With this Organisation the department catered to the requirements of the rapidly growing air traffic over the country. The number of written forecasts supplied to airmen during the year was of the order of 59,000. About 2,400 airmen were briefed on anticipated weather conditions along their routes before take-off, from aerodromes. Hourly current weather reports were broadcast from 28 aerodromes by aeronautical W/T channels for the benefit of aircraft in flight. A pamphlet describing the meteorological organisation in India for airmen and the procedures being followed for providing meteorological facilities to air services were published.

The department rendered valuable services to Air Forces, Navy and Army during the year. For the benefit of Air Forces and meteorological services in the neighbouring countries, it continued to broadcast meteorological observations, analyses and inferences from its four broadcast stations at New Delhi, Poona, Calcutta and Madras. Broadcasting of Sub-Continental broadcasts containing meteorological information for the whole of South East Asia Region was taken up at New Delhi from 1st March

1949. The department also continued to broadcast weather bulletins and warnings to shipping through the Coastal Radio Stations at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay and the naval W/T station at Colombo. It issued warnings against storms, gales and heavy rainfalls to port, irrigation, railway, provincial and state authorities. It continued to publish an All India Daily Weather Report, a Daily Weather Summary, a Weekly Weather Report, a Monthly Weather Review and a Quarterly Seismological Bulletin from Poona and Regional Daily Weather Reports and Farmers' Weather Bulletins from Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Delhi and Nagpur. Weather news and farmers' weather bulletins were also supplied throughout the year to 16 All India Radio Stations in 12 different languages for inclusion in their routine transmissions.

The department made considerable progress in setting up hydrometeorological and seismological observatories for various Dam Projects. It continued the Snow Survey Work on the Himalayas in co-operation with the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission. In accordance with the recommendation of the "Standing Advisory Board for Astronomy" it took up regular observations of the Sky and the seeing conditions at Kodaikanal and Indore for selection of suitable site for establishment of an Astronomical Observatory. In June 1948 a party of scientists were sent to the Himalayas to explore a suitable site for the projected High Level Research Station.

The department continued to make various meteorological instruments at its workshops at Poona and New Delhi. It made considerable progress in the construction of seismographs, seismograph-recorders, etc. It resumed Magnetic observations at Kodaikanal from 1st January 1949.

An outstanding event of the year under review was the holding of the first Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia of the International Meteorological Organisation at New Delhi in November 1948. The India Meteorological Department made necessary arrangements for this Conference and provided the secretariat staff. Dr. S. K. Banerji, Director General of Observatories, India was elected as the President of the Regional Commission for Asia of the International Meteorological Organisation in this Conference. The department also took active part in the meetings of the South East Asia Regional Air Navigation Commission of the International Civil Aviation Organisation which were held at New Delhi in November—December 1948. Mr. S. Basu, Deputy Director General of Observatories (Forecasting), was elected as the Chairman of the Meteorological Committee of this Air Navigation Commission.

During the year under review the department published 4 Memoirs, 4 Scientific Notes, 2 Technical Notes and 11 other publications besides its routine periodicals. A large number of scientific papers and articles were contributed to extra-departmental journals by the staff of the department.