

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 land slides due to the heavy rains. Most areas of the town of Jalpaiguri were submerged under water for a number of days and food and other necessities of daily life had to be dropped from