

NOTES AND NEWS

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS

Intimation has been received that the Ninth General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics will be held at Brussels from 20 August to 1 September 1951. Besides meetings of all the constituent associations, at which national reports will be presented and scientific papers read, there will be joint meetings for discussion of subjects of interest to more than one association and symposia on various topics. Some of the subjects to be discussed are:—Physics of the Higher Atmosphere and Ionosphere (Joint meeting of the Associations for Meteorology and Terrestrial Magnetism); General Circulation of Oceans and the Atmosphere (Joint meeting of the Associations for Physical Oceanography and Meteorology); Nature of the Earth's core and Movements of the Earth's Crust (Joint Committee on Physics of the Earth's Interior); Symposium on Problems of Micro-Meteorology, under the presidentship of Prof. C. G. Sutton; Symposia on Radiation and Atmospheric Ozone, under the presidentship of Dr. A. Angstrom and Prof. Dobson respectively.

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

The next General Assembly of this Union is to be held in Leningrad and Pulkovo between the 1st and 8th August 1951. The last meetings were held in Zurich in August 1948.

TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON FLOOD CONTROL

The Bureau of Flood Control of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East has convened a Technical Conference on Flood Control, which will take place in New Delhi from 7 to 9 January 1951. The aim of the Conference is to promote co-operation in the solution of flood control problems of common concern to the various countries in Asia and the Far East and to secure an improvement of existing flood control methods.

SECOND MEETING OF THE I.C.A.O. MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL AIR NAVIGATION COMMISSION HELD IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1950, AT ISTANBUL, TURKEY.

The Second Session of the Middle East Regional Air Navigation Commission of I.C.A.O. commenced at Istanbul from 17 October 1950. The Indian delegation to the meeting consisted of Shri T.P. Bhalla, Director-General of Civil Aviation, India, Shri M.B. Sarwate, Director of Communications, Civil Aviation Department, India and Shri P. Koteswaram, Meteorologist, India Meteorological Department. Important items on the agenda of the Meteorological Committee of this meeting were:

- (a) Co-ordination of the Area and Sub-Area Meteorological Broadcast Plan for the Middle East Region; and
- (b) Revision of the Meteorological Supplementary Procedures for the Middle East Region in the light of the revised Specifications for International Air Navigation recommended by Third Session of the Meteorological Division of I.C.A.O.

CENTRAL BOARD OF GEOPHYSICS

A meeting of this Board was held in New Delhi on 3 October 1950 to review the progress in the geophysical activities of the Survey of India, the Geological Survey of India, the India Meteorological Department and the Central Waterpower Irrigation and Navigation Commission and consider steps with a view to accelerate development. Reports on the work done by the Syllabus and the Oceanography Committees were also presented at the meeting.

CENTRAL BOARD OF IRRIGATION

The twenty-first annual meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation was held at New Delhi from 22 to 26 October 1950. Shri J. M. Sil and Shri V. Satakopan were deputed by the Director-General of Observatories to attend the meeting on behalf of the

Meteorological Department. Shri Satakopan introduced a paper on "Rainfall Analysis for multipurpose waterpower projects in India" at the meeting.

JOINT METEOROLOGICAL COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Joint Meteorological Committee (JOMCO), which was set up by Government of India to advise on arrangements for weather service requiring co-ordination between the various departments, was held on 25 August 1950. The principal items discussed at this meeting were the establishment of additional meteorological centres at minor aerodromes, provision of meteorological facilities for the newly started Calcutta-Khatmandu Air Service and other problems relating to Meteorological Communications. A sub-committee was also formed to consider the implementation in India of the recommendations made at the Third Session of the Meteorological Division of the International Civil Aviation Organisation held in Paris in March 1950.

SOLAR AND GEO-MAGNETIC PHENOMENA DURING THE PERIOD JULY TO SEPTEMBER 1950.

During the third quarter of 1950, the weather conditions were generally unfavourable for solar observations. The worst month was July when complete observations could be made only on five days. Judged from the available observations, solar activity was more or less normal.

Two moderate magnetic storms were recorded during the period. A storm of sudden commencement type which commenced at 1620 IST on 7 August 1950 with an initial impulse of 41γ in HF continued till 2200 IST of the next day. Radio-fade-outs were reported by the All India Radio during this period. Another storm of the same type which commenced at 1538 IST on 19 August 1950 with an initial impulse of 43γ in HF lasted till 2000 IST on 21 August 1950. A geomagnetic crochet was recorded by magnetograms at 1545 IST on 16 September 1950.

WEATHER, JULY-SEPTEMBER 1950.

The southwest monsoon got established over the whole country by 10 July and was active till 25 July. The Peninsula experienc-

ed a spell of practically dry weather from the end of July to the third week of August. There was also a break in the monsoon over the rest of the country in the third week of August. Thereafter the monsoon revived and good rain fell over most of the country till the end of September. Vigorous monsoon conditions prevailed in west Madhya Pradesh, in and near north Gujarat and the Punjab (1) in the third week of September. The monsoon began to withdraw from northwest India after 20 September and by 2 October had withdrawn completely from the country.

July.—This was a month of active monsoon over most of the country. The monsoon strengthened in the Konkan and east Madhya Pradesh early in the month and continued active in northeast India and east Uttar Pradesh during the first week. Aided by a low pressure wave, which moved from the Bay of Bengal off the Orissa coast to Rajasthan, the monsoon extended its sway over Vindhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Gujarat, and Saurashtra on 6 July and over Rajasthan, the Punjab (I) and west Uttar Pradesh during the next three days. The Arabian Sea branch also strengthened considerably during this period and gave widespread and locally very heavy rain in the Konkan, Gujarat and Saurashtra. Rainfall also extended into Deccan (Desh) and Hyderabad. In association with a "low" which developed over Rajasthan on the 11th and merged into the seasonal "low" over Western Pakistan on the 15th, the monsoon remained strong over the north Konkan, Gujarat and Saurashtra and Kutch between the 12th and 16th. It was vigorous over Saurashtra and Kutch on the 14th when exceptionally heavy rain fell over that area resulting in serious floods and loss of property, crops and cattle in northern Saurashtra. The monsoon was also active elsewhere over the country outside Rajasthan and the eastern half of the Peninsula till the end of the third week. It was strong along the west coast and fairly active in the central parts of the country, west Uttar Pradesh and east Rajasthan during the next five days, *i.e.* between the 21st and 26th. A depression which formed in the northwest Bay of Bengal on the 25th and moved upto Sind by the 31st, was responsible for active monsoon in Hyderabad, Orissa and Gangetic West Bengal on the 25th and 26th and vigorous monsoon in north Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat and

in and near north Gujarat and Kutch between the 28th and 30th.

Averaged over the plains of India rainfall during July was in excess by 14 per cent.

August.—The Arabian Sea branch of the monsoon was generally weak over the Peninsula in the first three weeks of August causing scarcity conditions in Hyderabad and the adjoining districts of the Bombay State. But the Bay branch, maintained its vigour during the first fortnight, chiefly under the influence of two depressions. The first one was a land depression which moved from south Bihar to Vindhya Pradesh and north Madhya Pradesh between the 3rd and 6th and then weakened. Under its influence, the monsoon strengthened over the region extending from Gangetic West Bengal and Orissa to east Rajasthan in the first week. The second depression formed at the head of the Bay of Bengal and moved up to east Uttar Pradesh during the second week and kept the monsoon active over most of northern India during this period and caused locally very heavy rain in West Bengal, Chota Nagpur, Bihar and East Uttar Pradesh between the 12th and 14th. The heavy rains in the plains and the very heavy falls in the Himalayan foot-hills resulted in serious floods, interruptions in the communications and heavy loss of property and agricultural crops in parts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

The Bay of Bengal branch of the monsoon, however, rapidly weakened after the 14th and a "break" in the monsoon set in over the whole country during the third week. The spell of dry weather in the Peninsula and the central parts of the country was broken in the last week of the month by two low pressure waves from the Bay of Bengal which caused widespread or local rain over those areas during this period. A low pressure area which developed over north Madhya Pradesh and Vindhya Pradesh and moved westwards was responsible for a general strengthening of the monsoon over the whole country towards the end of the month.

Averaged over the plains of India, the rainfall for August was in defect by 8 per cent.

September.—The low pressure area which was over north Madhya Pradesh and Vindhya

Pradesh at the end of the previous month moved up to east Rajasthan before it filled up. In association with it, the monsoon was fairly active over northern India and the western half of the Peninsula in the beginning of September. Rainfall was particularly very heavy in the Punjab (I) on the 4th. The heavy rains caused severe floods in the Ravi, the Beas and the Sutlej and breaches in the railways and roads all over the state besides land slips in the hills. The monsoon strengthened over the northern half of the Peninsula in the second week in association with a Bay of Bengal depression, which formed off the Circars coast and filled up over coastal Andhradesa. Locally very heavy falls of rain were reported from coastal Andhradesa, Hyderabad and north Deccan (Desh) between the 9th and 12th. A cyclonic storm from the Bay struck the Orissa coast on the 13th, moved west northwestwards as a deep depression to east Rajasthan by the 18th and then recurred and broke up over the Punjab-Kumaon hills on the 20th. In association with it, the monsoon was strong over the region extending from Orissa and Chota Nagpur to Gujarat and the Punjab (I) in the middle of the month. Rainfall was exceptionally heavy and concentrated in and near north Gujarat; Mount Abu reported a rainfall of 18" in 24 hours on the 18th morning. Locally very heavy rain was also reported from west Madhya Pradesh on the 16th and from the hills and submontane districts of the Punjab (I) between the 18th and 20th. These heavy rains were responsible for extensive damage to property and crops in the Punjab (I). There were also heavy floods in Kashmir. The Jhelum is reported to have breached its banks and submerged many parts of the Kashmir Valley, causing immense damage to crops.

With the breaking up of the deep depression on the 20th, the monsoon withdrew from northwest India. It withdrew from Uttar Pradesh by the 24th and from the central parts of the country and northeast India in the course of the next two days. By the 29th, it had withdrawn from the country excepting the extreme south of the Peninsula, from where also it withdrew by the 2nd October.

Averaged over the plains of India, rainfall for September was in excess by 17 per cent.

Monsoon season as a whole: The rainfall for the monsoon season as a whole (June to September) was in slight to moderate excess in Chota Nagpur, the Punjab (I), Rayalaseema, Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch, south Hyderabad, Malabar-south Kanara and Travancore-Cochin and in slight defect

in Bay Islands, east Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Madhya Pradesh, and north Hyderabad. The rainfall was normal over the rest of the country. Averaged over the plains of India, the rainfall was 2 per cent in excess.

OBITUARY

We regret to report the death of Shri Gurunath Venkatesh Bewoor at Bombay on 29 November 1950 due to a sudden heart attack.

Shri G.V. Bewoor was born at Bijapur on 20 November, 1888 and was educated at Deccan College, Poona and Sydney Sussex College, Cambridge.

He joined the Indian Civil Service in 1912 and was posted to the Central Provinces as Assistant Commissioner. In July 1922 he joined the Posts and Telegraphs Department of the Government of India and became the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs in 1934. He was Additional Secretary, Defence Department in August 1941 and Secretary to the Government of

India, Department of Posts and Air from July 1942 to June 1946. He then became a Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council in the Interim Ministry in 1946. On his retirement from Govt. Service he joined the Tatas and at the time of his demise was the Director-in-Charge of Air India and Air India International.

During the years when he was the Secretary to the Govt. of India, Department of Posts and Air, he held charge of Meteorology and as such was well-known and respected in the India Meteorological Department.

His sudden death has brought to an end a distinguished career. To the bereaved members of his family we extend our sincerest sympathies.