

to Bagdogra on the 27th March, 1964; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Mohiuddin):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A charter flight involving overflying Pakistan territory can be operated only with prior permission of the Pakistan authorities for overflying East Pakistan. Since it had to be operated at short notice, the Indian Airlines Corporation felt that it would not be possible to obtain prior permission of the Civil Aviation authorities in Pakistan. It was thereoperated from Delhi *via* Bagdogra to Gauhati.

Cargo Vessel from Poland

*1121. { Shri A. V. Raghavan:
Shri Pottekkatti:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Rajdeo Singh:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has contracted to buy four modern cargo vessels from the Centromor Organisation of Poland; and

(b) if so, when the vessels will be delivered?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The vessels are scheduled to be delivered on the 31st March, 1966, 31st May, 1966, 15th July, 1966 and 31st August, 1966.

Potato Crop

*1122. **Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a widespread epidemic has damaged nearly half the potato crop of West Bengal;

(b) whether the total loss due to crop failure is estimated to be about Rs. 20 crores;

(c) whether the State Government of West Bengal approached the Central Government for import of suitable chemicals for saving the standing crop; and

(d) whether the Central Government declined to help the State Government in this?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) No official intimation has been received from the State Government.

(b) No estimates of damage have been received.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. During 1963, however, the State Government requested for augmenting supplies of raw materials of imported fungicides; and compared to 1962-63, a substantially larger amount of foreign exchange had been allocated during 1963-64 to the trade for the formulations of the required chemicals. To meet the immediate requirements of the Government of West Bengal, foreign exchange has been allotted for this purpose to the State Government and efforts are being made for obtaining an additional allocation.

Import of Burmese Rice

*1124. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 731 on the 24th March, 1964 and state:

(a) the cost at which 1,50,000 tons of Burmese rice is being purchased;

(b) the foreign exchange that will be required on this import; and

(c) the nature of efforts made to procure rice from Burma and elsewhere on rupee payment and the result thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b). It is not in the public interest to disclose the price at which rice has been purchased.

(c) Arrangements exist for payment of rice imported from U.S.A. and U.A.R. in Indian rupees. We do not have any arrangements for payment in rupees for covering import of rice from any other country, including Burma, nor does Burma seem to be interested in receiving payment for her rice exports in non-convertible Indian rupees.

Spray Irrigation

*1126. { Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
Shri Murlī Mamohar:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Rajdeo Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start spray irrigation on an experimental basis to ensure maximum use of water;

(b) if so, the main reason therefor; and

(c) the approximate cost for irrigating one acre of land?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) A scheme for study of sprinkler irrigation has been initiated at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute with effect from the 26th December, 1963.

(b) The scheme has been initiated with a view to (i) gather data on sprinkler equipment and field operating conditions for working out adjustments in design, installation and operation; (ii) evaluate the saving in

water with supplemental irrigation system and its economics as compared to surface method of irrigation; and (iii) study the effect of sprinkler irrigation on the physical conditions of the soil and the growth and the yield of selected crops as compared to surface method of water application.

(c) As the Scheme has been started only recently it is too early to assess the cost of sprinkler irrigation at present.

Agricultural Production

*1127. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been possible so far to use radio isotopes for increasing yield of agricultural produce and for other agricultural purposes in the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which it has been used so far; and

(c) what has been the result of such use?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT12750/64].

टूंडला जंक्शन के निकट मालगाड़ी का लटा जाना

*११२८. { श्री कछवाय :
श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री :
श्री शिकरे :
श्री यु० सि० चौधरी :
श्री श्रींकारलाल बेरवा :
श्री यशपाल सिंह :

क्या रेलब मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि टूंडला जंक्शन से ६ किलोमीटर पूर्व सशस्त्र गुण्डों ने एक माल गाड़ी को रोक लिया था;