

(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;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि उन्होंने गार्ड को पिस्तौल दिखा कर रोके रखा और कई माल डिब्बों की सील तोड़ कर गेहूँ और चावल के बोरो को लूट लिया ;

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इससे कितनी हानि हुई ; और

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि टूंडला स्टेशन पर अधिकारियों को सूचना देकर जब ड्राइवर लौटा तब गुण्डे भाग चुके थे ।

रेलवे मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खाँ) : (क) जी हाँ, ५/६ मार्च, १९६४ को कुछ गुण्डों ने बरहन और मितावली स्टेशनों के बीच नं० १८० डाउन मालगाड़ी के कुछ वैकुअम होज़ पाइपों को काट कर उसे रोक लिया था । यह जगह टूंडला जंक्शन से पूर्व को और नहीं, बल्कि लगभग ६ किलोमीटर पश्चिम की ओर है ।

(ख) गुंडों ने गाड़ी के दो डिब्बों की सील तोड़ कर उन्हें खोल दिया और उनमें से तीन बोरे गेहूँ और १० कट्टे गुड़ निकाल लिये । लेकिन गाड़ी के गार्ड को पिस्तौल दिखा कर रोका नहीं गया था ।

(ग) लगभग २७० रुपये की हानि हुई ।

(घ) जी हाँ ।

Foodgrain Trade by Co-operatives

*1129. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme to encourage co-operatives to enter foodgrain trade; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b). It is the policy of the Government to encourage co-operatives to

enter foodgrains trade, but no specific scheme has been drawn up for this purpose.

Bridge near Hoshangabad

2287. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of the road bridge on the Narmada, near Hoshangabad, is very much behind schedule; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The construction of the bridge over the river Narmada near Hoshangabad is a State project. But the Government of India have made a grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 13.34 lakhs for this bridge. The work on the bridge was started in February, 1960 and according to the schedule the bridge was required to be completed by February, 1962. The entire work in the foundations and piers of the bridge has been completed upto the top of the pier cap, but further work on the super-structure has been held up due to non-availability of the required quantity of 3 m.m. High Tensile Steel wire in the country. The design of the bridge had therefore to be revised so as to allow the use of 7 m.m. High Tensile Steel wire, the manufacture of which has recently been taken up in the country. The requisite quantity of steel has now been procured. The work on the super-structure, will start as soon as the detailed design for the super-structure is approved by the State Government.

Itarsi Railway Station

2288. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the gates of the railway level crossing just outside Itarsi Station remain closed for more than half an hour at a time; and