

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Not yet known as the vessel is still in the hands of the salvors.

Floods in Bihar

*1390. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that large areas in Bihar specially its northern parts have been inundated by floods in almost all the rivers there;

(b) if so, the nature and extent of damage caused;

(c) whether it is a fact that standing bhadaï crops and transplanted paddy are almost wholly destroyed;

(d) whether the State has sought the help of the Centre to meet the situation created by high floods; and

(e) if so, the nature of help sought and the extent to which the Centre has decided to give such help?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (c). The Government of Bihar have reported that large areas of North Bihar have been inundated by floods and there has been considerable damage to Bhadaï and Aghani crops. Roads, bridges, culverts and other public properties have also been damaged. The actual loss has not been assessed as yet.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Rural Credit

*1391. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 71 on the 12th November, 1957, and state:

(a) whether the field investigations for assessing significant changes on

the demand side of credit and also the study of the working of various types of cooperatives have been completed; and

(b) if so, the conclusions arrived at regarding the credit situation in the rural sector?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The drafting of the district reports is now on hand in the Reserve Bank of India. A general report embodying the findings of the survey will be issued after the preparation of district reports.

Transport Co-operative Societies

*1392. { Shri Ram Krishan:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme to set up transport co-operative societies of educated unemployed for long distance operations is under consideration;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether any financial allocations have been made in this regard to the State Governments;

(d) if so, the amount so allocated (State-wise); and

(e) the progress made so far?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 130.]

Convention regarding Stowaways

*1393. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has ratified the convention relating to stowaways adopted at Brussels;

- (b) if so, when; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter is still under consideration in consultation with the interests concerned.

Food Situation in West Bengal

*1394. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

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

(a) the impressions of his tour in the month of July, 1958 in West Bengal regarding the food position in rural areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that people urged upon him to supply rice and to stop wheat supply; and

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken in this direction?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (c). In a short visit, it was not possible to study closely the position of the rural areas but there were difficulties of varying degree in some parts which I visited. There was no general demand for supply of rice only. In one place, the question was raised and addressing a large gathering, I pointed out the difficulties about the supply of rice. On the whole they appreciated our difficulties. My general impression is that people in West Bengal can easily acquire a liking for wheat.

उत्तरी गेहूं क्षेत्र

१३९५. श्री पद्म सेव : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या खाद्यान्न की दृष्टि से पंजाब और हिमाचल प्रदेश को एक क्षेत्र माना गया है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो पंजाब से चावल हिमाचल प्रदेश में ले जाने पर क्यों प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है ; और

(ग) सरकार ने हिमाचल प्रदेश में कांगड़ा की तरह चावल खाने वाले लोगों के लिये क्या प्रबन्ध किया है ?

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री जे० प्र० जन) : (क) जी हाँ; इस समय, जहाँ तक गेहूँ और चावल का सम्बन्ध है हिमाचल प्रदेश और पंजाब एक ही क्षेत्र में हैं ।

(ख) और (ग). प्रश्न नहीं उठते ।

Departmental Catering

2264. { Shri Ram Krishan:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Railway stations on which departmental catering has been introduced so far, Zone-wise; and

(b) the names of Railway stations on which departmental catering will be introduced during 1958-59 Zone-wise?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 131.]

(b) Eastern Railway.

(i) Ranaghat.

(ii) Burdwan.

Construction of River Bridges in Bombay

2265. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the amount granted by the Central Government to Bombay State for the construction of bridges over rivers during the Second Five Year Plan; and