

Scooters for Delhi

*302. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Road Research Institute has recommended for more scooters in Delhi in order to ease the transport situation; and

(b) if so, whether it has been accepted?

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

(b) Yes. The Delhi State Transport Authority has been issuing additional auto-rickshaw permits.

Failure of Paddy Crops in Manipur

*303. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that paddy crops have failed in the Ukhrul and Bhudachandpur Sub-divisions in Manipur during the present harvest season and acute scarcity of food-stuffs has been prevalent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that paddy crops have been vastly damaged by rats and other insects in the Sub-division of Bhudachandpur;

(c) whether test relief works have been started in the affected areas; and

(d) if not, what other steps have been taken to avert food crisis in these hill areas of Manipur?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Detention of Train at Delhi Cantonment Station

*304. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 201 Up Ahmedabad Mail which left

Delhi main Station on the night of the 7th November, 1959, had a defective III Class bogey attached to it;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the whole train was over-crowded;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the passengers of the defective III Class bogey discovered the defect when the train was nearing Delhi Cantonment Station and stopped the train by pulling alarm chain; and

(d) if so, what arrangements did the railway administration make for providing alternative accommodation to about 130 passengers of the defective bogey who refused to be stranded about midnight?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 86.]

Purchase of Rice by West Bengal Government in Orissa

*305. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of West Bengal carried on negotiations with the Government of Orissa with a view to purchasing rice from Orissa directly in recent months;

(b) if so, what was the result of this negotiation between the two Governments; and

(c) whether it is a fact that upto September, 1959 about 1 lakh, 5 thousand tons of rice and about 55 thousand tons of paddy were procured on Central Government account in Orissa and were transported to West Bengal?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter was not pursued.