

procuring bigger vessels. I want to know whether Government have all the detailed information required for the development of the Bank.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** We have not got detailed information, but the available information, indicates that there are possibilities of exploiting that area.

**Shri Kodiyan:** May I know whether, in view of the importance of fisheries in the Kerala State which is deficit in food, the Central Government will give any special assistance for the development of fisheries there from funds for additional food production?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It is under the G.M.F. scheme that provision is made as is contemplated in the question put by my hon. friend. For development of fisheries we provided for Rs. 5 crores and odd in the First Plan. In the Second Five Year Plan, we have provided for Rs. 12 crores and, I think, within the overall allotment it may be possible to provide for schemes in the Kerala areas also.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi:** Invariably small fish is being caught. Is there any proposal to get big fish?

**Mr. Speaker:** No, no.

**The Deputy Minister for Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** Generally, in our nets, big fish are caught because it is deep-sea fishing.

#### Government Agricultural Farms

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

(a) the cost of production per acre on the Central Government farms, especially in respect of Sugarcane and Wheat; and

(b) the percentage cost on account of irrigation in the total cost?

**The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) and (b). In the mechanised farm at Nandpur (Jammu), the cost of cultivation per acre of the principal crops during

1955-56, for which it has been worked out, was as follows:—

Paddy	.. Rs. 130.18
Wheat	.. Rs. 59.50
Gram	.. Rs. 36.66
Barley	.. Rs. 31.97

No sugarcane was cultivated. The cost of irrigation in the total cost per acre of paddy worked out to 16.7 per cent. In the case of wheat and other rabi crops, no irrigation could be given due to closure of canals in the area.

**Shri Shivananajappa:** May I know the yield per acre of sugarcane?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** No sugarcane was cultivated in this farm. The question refers to the Central Government farms.

#### Kalighat-Falta Railway

\*304. **Shri Biren Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any alternative means of communication apart from a few buses is being planned to serve the needs of villages surrounding an area of 300 square miles south of the Municipal area of Behala (South Calcutta) consequent on the stoppage of the Kalighat-Falta Railway; and

(b) what action has been taken on public representations by the General Manager; South Eastern Railway to keep the big open area South-East of the Gholeshahapur Station (so long used as a public play-ground and park in the Behala Municipal Area) as a play-ground or to hand it over for maintenance as such to the South Suburban Municipality?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) the augmented and improved road services in the area covered by the Kalighat-Falta Railway provide the necessary alternative means of com-

munication. In fact, the decision to close the Railway to traffic was taken only after the State Government had indicated that it would not be necessary to run the light railway on and after 1st April, 1957 in view of the augmenting and improvement of the road services which the State Government was having in hand.

(b) A representation was received by the Railway Board from the Chairman, South-Suburban Municipality, Behala, in April 1957 and this has been referred for enquiry and report to the General Manager, Eastern Railway who had already taken up this examination as a result of a representation addressed to him.

**Shri Biren Roy:** I have to put two questions, one to each part. The reply to the first part says, the roads have been augmented, and, other services are coming in. In that part no roads have been augmented.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member is delivering a speech. What is the question?

**Shri Biren Roy:** The hon. Minister has replied to the question that in view of the fact that roads had been augmented and better services have been arranged, so, this line has been stopped.

**Mr. Speaker:** Who wants a repetition of the reply?

**Shri Biren Roy:** I want to know which roads have been augmented.

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** This Ministry is concerned only with the construction of railways; and, if the hon. Member wants to know details about the roads, he better ask the State Government.

**Shri Biren Roy:** The next question is about the land which was acquired by this Railway about 40 years ago at a very cheap price and was kept open for the area as a park and football ground. The question is that this land be given at the same

rate of acquisition to the South-Suburban Municipality and it is now developing on the Central Government.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member is making some suggestion.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** The hon. Minister has stated that the Railway Ministry is not concerned with the augmenting of the services.....

**Mr. Speaker:** With the augmenting of the roads.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Yes, with the augmenting of the roads. May I know why the rail link was closed down without looking to it that suitable alternative services are provided for the thousands of passengers who daily come into and go out of Calcutta through that road?

**Mr. Speaker:** The same question was put by the same hon. Member and I have allowed a number of questions on this matter before.

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** The Railway Ministry feels its responsibility towards the travelling public. It was only on the assurance of the Government of West Bengal that the public of that area would not be put to any inconvenience on account of the closure of this Railway that we decided to close this railway line.

**Shrimati Renu Charkravartty:** rose.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Question Hour is over.

**Shri Manaan:** Sir, I submitted a little earlier that Question No. 325 is very important and that it may be answered.

**Mr. Speaker:** A number of questions are important. I do not know whether the Minister will agree. It relates to a single railway line. How is a single line important for the whole of India? We will take up the Short Notice Question now.