

river bank occurred in the last week of July, 1957, due to heavy rains for a few days. Only one house was damaged, to standing crops being negligible. The breaches were closed quickly by the Public Works Department with the co-operation of the local villagers and the National Cadet Corps. Such minor breaches are unavoidable during heavy rains and the Public Works Department have arrangements to deal with them if and when they occur. No distress was caused and, as such, no relief measures were necessary.

Shri L. Achaw Singh: In view of the fact that every year floods occur due to breaches in the river embankments, may I know whether Government are considering the question of finding out a permanent and effective means of controlling the floods there?

Shri S. K. Patil: The floods in the Manipur Valley are not of a type where we should really be afraid of these breaches. According to the information that we have received, the annual discharge is not so great as to necessitate the taking of big-size measures in hand immediately, but even then, the matter is under consideration as to how this problem could be tackled.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Railway Board

***792 Shri Vasudevan Nair:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the number of Members of the Railway Board recently increased to deal with development work during Second Five Year Plan,

(b) the additional annual expenditure consequent on the new increase in strength of the Board;

(c) whether it is a fact that the new Members are not admitted to the meetings of the regular Railway Board; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawas Khan): (a) to (d). The number of Members of the Railway Board has not been increased recently. 5 posts of Additional Members have been sanctioned. The total annual expenditure on this account is Rs 3 lakhs, including expenditure on staff attached to the Additional Members. Since they are not full Members of the Railway Board, they do not attend regular meetings of the Board except where their presence is required.

Calcutta Seamen

***795. Shri Biren Roy:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state.

(a) the strength of different Seamen's Unions in Calcutta in terms of membership as has been assessed through the registration of Seamen at the Calcutta Seamen Employment Office, and

(b) whether a copy of the recommendations made by the Seamen's Welfare Board and the decision of Government in regard thereto will be laid on the Table of the Sabha?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No such statistics are available from the registration documents as the Seamen do not always indicate their affiliation to specific unions while registering themselves at the Seamen's Employment Office.

(b) The National Welfare Board for Seafarers has not yet submitted its recommendations to Government.

Ferry Crafts on Brahmaputra

***797. Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 738 on the 31st May, 1957 and state

(a) whether Government have scrutinised the tenders for the purchase of

two ferry-crafts for crossing Brahmaputra at Jogighopa, Pancharatna in the State of Assam; and

(b) if so, whether orders have been placed and when the two crafts are likely to be put into operation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The tenders are still under scrutiny.

(b) The period of delivery will depend on the tender accepted and may range from 9 to 20 months from the date on which an order is placed.

Tractors

*798. Shri Shree Narayan Das Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 414 on the 29th July, 1957 and state.

(a) the description of the 34 tractors which are being scrapped, from where they were purchased and the prices paid for them;

(b) whether at the time of purchase any guarantees were obtained from the suppliers;

(c) if so, the nature of such guarantees, and

(d) the hours of work done by these tractors?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) These 34 tractors consist of 25 HD-19 Allis Chalmers tractors and 9 FDE tractors, and were purchased from U S A in 1949 with the loan from the International Bank. The price paid was Rs 77,000,- each for Allis Chalmers tractors and Rs 61,500 each per FDE tractors

(b) and (c) Yes, the manufacturers had guaranteed free supply of parts in case any manufacturing defects came to light within one year of purchase of tractors.

(d) 10500 to 12000 hours in the case of HD 19 tractors and 12000 to 13500 hours in the case of F.D.E tractors.

Disciplinary Action against Railwaymen

*800. { Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several years are taken to decide cases of disciplinary action against Railwaymen who are kept under suspension;

(b) whether a statement showing the number of cases of suspension for one year and above pending now on the Southern Railway will be laid on the Table of the Sabha; and

(c) what are the conditions under which a suspension order is issued?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No. Normally disciplinary action is taken as quickly as possible

(b) On 31st July, 1957 there were 38 cases of suspension on the Southern Railway which were over one year old

(c) A Non-Gazetted Railway servant is placed under suspension in the circumstances stated in Rule 1711 of the Indian Railway Establishment Code, Vol I, a copy of which is available in the library of the House

Food Situation in Tripura

*801. { Shri Bangshi Thakur:
Shri Dasaratha Deb:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of essential food commodities are higher in Tripura than in other parts of India,

(b) whether it is also a fact that even now rice is being sold in the local market of the upper part of Kailasahar Division of Tripura at the rate of Rs 35/- to Rs. 37/- per maund and the price of rice in other parts of Tripura is not less than Rs. 25/- per maund;