

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Not yet, Sir. The proposal is under investigation and traffic survey is proposed to be sanctioned very shortly for this purpose.

DAMAGE OF CROPS IN NORTH BIHAR

*750. **Shri Anirudha Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the extent of damage and loss (in tons) caused to Bhadai Crops in North Bihar due to the recent floods there?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The loss to Bhadai Crops in North Bihar is estimated at 5.27 lakh tons.

BASE COINS AND NOTES

*751. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts of base coins and notes for which debits were made in the personal accounts of the Railway Station Masters during the years 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to train these Railway staff in the matter of detecting forged currency notes or base coins which may be tendered to them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The amounts of debits raised against the station masters including Booking and Goods clerks are shown below:—

1951-52.	Rs. 2,85,581-7-0
1952-53.	Rs. 2,22,247-9-0
1953-54.	Rs. 1,70,377-3-0

NOTE.—The above do not include figures of *ex-Assam* Railway for which information is not readily available due to breaches.

(b) Detailed instructions for detecting forged or base coins or notes have been laid down in the Manuals of Instructions published by the Railways for the guidance of station staff

responsible for handling cash. Instructions are also imparted from time to time through the 'Weekly Gazettes' bringing to the notice of the staff any specific types of notes or coins which should not be accepted by the staff as legal tender.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN SOUTH BIHAR

*752. { **Shri G. P. Sinha:**
Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:
Shri Ibrahim:
Shri S. N. Das:

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

(a) whether Government have received reports regarding the drought conditions in Chhota Nagpur in South Bihar, specially in the Districts of Palamau Singhbhum and Hazaribagh;

(b) if so, how far this has affected normal transplantation of paddy in those areas; and

(c) the amount of assistance proposed to be given by the Central Government for providing relief to the Cultivators?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) The transplantation of paddy has not been completed so far in most parts of South Bihar.

(c) The State Government have not approached for any help from the centre so far.

MILK PRESERVATION

*753. **Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experiments with 'hydrogen peroxide' for keeping the quality of milk intact carried out at the Bangalore Institute have proved successful; and

(b) if so, to what extent?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 50.]