

Co-operative Farming

*2236. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any proposals from the Government of Punjab for the development of co-operative farming; and

(b) if so, whether any amount has been allotted for this purpose?

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

(b) Not yet; certain information has been called for from the State Government and the necessary allotment of funds will be made thereafter.

Air Accidents

*2237. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Courts of Enquiry appointed by Government to investigate into the causes that led to the accidents to two Dakotas of the Indian Air-lines Corporations near Gauhati and Nagpur on the 25th January, and the 2nd February, 1955 respectively, have completed their reports; and

(b) if so, their findings?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Summaries of the reports of the Courts of Enquiry in both the cases have been released to the Press. According to the Court (i) the Dakota aircraft VT-COZ crashed near Gauhati airport on the 25th January, 1955 in the course of a premature descent, during the final approach, as a result of hitting arecanut trees which were obscured from view by fog in the area and (ii) Dakota aircraft VT-CVB crashed at the Nagpur airport on the 2nd February, 1955 as a result of slipping into the ground in the course of a steep turn to port executed at night at a low altitude.

Copies of the reports are also available in the Parliament Library.

Taxation Enquiry Commission

*2238. { **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**
Shri P. C. Bose:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have issued any directions to State Governments in respect of the Taxation Enquiry Commission's recommendation, to make the local bodies and local authorities financially sound; and

(b) if so, the nature of the direction given?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) and (b). The Central Council of Local Self-Government have requested the State Governments to forward their views, comments and suggestions on the various recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission at an early date in order to enable the Executive Committee of the Council to consider and report thereon.

Tourist Traffic

*2239. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to determine the preferences of foreign tourists in respect of various goods and services available to them in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that a modern tourist reception centre is proposed to be constructed in Srinagar; and

(c) if so, what will be its cost of construction and who will bear the cost?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Tourist Reception Centre is being constructed by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Its estimated cost is Rs. 7.39 lakhs. The extent to which the Central Government will contribute towards its cost has not yet been finally settled.

Rest Homes for Railway Staff

*2240. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to para 68 of his speech on the Railway Budget for 1955-56 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been arrived at regarding the opening of rest homes for the staff at suitable hill stations or seaside resorts for spending their holidays inexpensively; and

(b) if so, the sites selected?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Kurseong, Ranchi, Mussoorie, Pallavaram and Barog so far.