

the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1651 on the 2nd May, 1956 and state:

(a) whether it has been brought to his notice that in the doubling operation of the Rajkharwan-Gua line, the contractors in charge of the lines have dispossessed the cultivators of their cultivated lands lying along the railway line without acquiring them in accordance with the Land Acquisition Act;

(b) whether it is a fact that complete damage has been done to the crops in the above operations; and

(c) whether the lands will be acquired and due compensation paid for the lands as well as for the crops damaged?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan) : (a) Before starting the work an agreement was obtained from the owners in writing that they had no objection to the Railway's entry on their land pending the finalisation of acquisition proceedings.

(b) No damage was done to any crops since at the time of starting the work there were no crops.

(c) Arrangements are in hand for the acquisition of the land and for the payment of compensation.

Bhaite-Bhadran and Sojitra-Dholka Lines

*1847. **Shri Dabhi :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhaite-Bhadran and Sojitra-Dholka lines were included in the surveys which had been sanctioned; and

(b) if so, why no amount for the surveys of these two lines has been provided for in the budget for 1956-57?

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

(b) An amount of Rs. 17,000/- is being provided through the August Review of the Railway's current year's budget.

Railway Printing Presses

*1848. **Shri Jhulan Sinha :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway printing presses have not the capacity to cope with the work required of them and that private presses have to be called in to complete it; and

(b) if so, whether the question of increasing the capacity of the present presses and of saving large amount of money there by has been examined and whether any decision has been taken in respect thereof?

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

(b) Yes, it has been decided to make the Railway Printing presses self sufficient as far as possible.

Farmer's Weather Bulletins

*1849. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary :** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any estimate has been made of the peasants taken advantage of farmer's weather bulletins broadcast by A.I.R.?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) : No systematic survey has been made as to how far the peasants are taking advantage of the Farmer's Weather Bulletins. However, from the reports received from some of the Community Project Centres, through which a scheme of dissemination of special weather messages to farmers was put into operation, it is seen that the agriculturists generally found the weather messages useful in regulating the agricultural operations.

Prices of Agricultural Commodities

*1850. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra :** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to set up an expert body to examine the question of fixing minimum prices for agricultural commodities?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : No such proposal is at present under the consideration of Government.

रेलवे स्टीमर दुर्घटना

*१८५१. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या रेलवे मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि २१ जुलाई, १९५६ को पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे का समस्तीपुर नाम का एक स्टीमर दीघाघाट और पलेजाघाट के बीच ज्यों ही वह चला था, डूब गया ; और