The Deputy Minister of Community Development, Panchayati and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) During the year 1961-62, pilot projects have been launched in 64 districts where 255 societies have come into existence. State-wise break-up is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 24].

(b) Seven cooperative farming wings are to be established during the year 1962-63 at the rate of one per State in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mysore, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The training wing for Madras State has already started functioning. In addition, seven cooperative farming wings started in other States in the year 1961-62 will continue to provide training facilities to the official and non-official workers during the year 1962-63.

(c) The programme for popularising cooperative farming inc.udes the following important measures:—

(i) During the year 1962-63, new pilot projects will be started in 89 districts where 542 societies will be organised. In addition, a backlog of 244 societies in the pilot projects started in 1961-62 would be completed.

(ii) Besides societies in the pilot projects, 1015 farming societies are to be started in the non-pilot areas.

(iii) Study tours to successful cooperative farming societies are to be organised for members or prospective members of newly organised societies.

(iv) Village camps would be organised to propagate the idea of cooperative farming amongst the agriculturists. Popular pamphlets on the subject of cooperative farming including questions and answers will be made available to the farmers in their local language. Radio forums on various aspects of cooperative farming will be arranged. Publication of flash cards, posters, films will be undertaken. A film on cooperative farming is nearing completion.

(v) Success stories of some cooperative farms will be published.

(vi) Procedure for sanctioning financial assistance will be decentralised. Technical assistance from the block and other staff is to be provided on a priority basis.

(vii) The Panchayati Raj institutions have been requested to help the development of cooperative farming by alloting lands vested in it to cooperative farming societies. The Panchayati Rat institutions are also to review the progress of cooperative farming, particularly at the level of the Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad once a quarter.

Third Class Air-Conditioned De-Luxe Coaches

2004. (Dr. P. Srinivasan: Shri Paramasiyan:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the desirability of providing sleeper berths in Third Class airconditioned De-Luxe coaches by redesigning them; and

(b) if so, details thereof7

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawas Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Madras-Delhi Janata Express

2005. / Dr. P. Srinivasan: Shri Paramasiyan:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state: