

मध्य प्रदेश : पंचायती राज विधान बना लिया गया है। पंचायती राज संस्थाओं के चुनाव करन के लिये तैयारियां की जा रही हैं।

नागालड : राज्य में चल रही विशेष परिस्थितियों को दृष्टि में रखते हुए यहां पंचायती राज लागू करने के प्रश्न पर अभी तक विचार नहीं किया गया है।

पश्चिमी बंगाल : पंचायती राज विधान को राज्य की विधान सभा ने पास कर दिया है और राष्ट्रपति की स्वीकृति की इंतजार है।

Railway Accidents

115. **Shri D. B. Raju:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway accidents that took place in September, 1963 on Southern Railway; and

(b) the circumstances under which each accident occurred?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Twenty nine, in the categories of collisions, derailments, fires in trains and trains running into road traffic at level crossings.

(b) Out of these accidents, 2 were caused due to the failure of the Railway staff, one was due to the negligence on the part of the driver of a motor vehicle and one was accidental for which none has been found to blame. The remaining cases are under investigation.

Drought in Rajasthan

116. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Dr. P. N. Khan:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri H. C. Soy:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cows died this year due to drought in Rajasthan and Gujarat;

(b) if so, which areas were badly affected;

(c) whether these areas do not also usually have enough rainfall; and

(d) if so, what precautions are taken against such calamities?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) to (d). Information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Jute

{ **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Dr. P. N. Khan:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that yield per acre of jute in our country is very low;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) how Government propose to step up the yield per acre?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) The average yield per acre of jute in India is lower than that of other jute-growing countries.

(b) The main reason for lesser yield of Indian jute crop is the low fertility of the soils in some of the jute growing areas in which jute cultivation has spread on marginal lands. Where the soil conditions are better, the yields per acre compare favourably with other countries.

(c) The yield per acre is proposed to be stepped up by adopting intensive cultivation measures, including