

(iii) arrangements were made to divert traffic by alternative routes, including rail-cum-river and rail-cum-road routes.

#### DAMAGE TO CROPS

36. **Shri Anirudha Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of damage to the standing sugarcane crop in North Bihar due to the recent floods; and

(b) how it has affected the production of sugar in the coming season?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) About 50,000 acres of sugarcane crop has been affected by floods in Bihar causing a loss of about 1.8 lakh tons of sugarcane.

(b) In spite of damage to cane crop by floods, the production of sugar in Bihar during the current season is expected to be slightly more than that in 1953-54. The area under sugarcane in Bihar in 1954-55, according to the first forecast, is about 2 per cent. more than that in 1953-54 season and the yield per acre is also expected to be a little higher than in the last season.

#### DINING CARS

37. **Shri Anirudha Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the trains in the different Railway Zones in which dining cars have been thrown open to all classes of passengers?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** All trains on which dining cars are provided.

#### RAIL LINK BETWEEN SAKRI AND HASANPUR ROAD

38. **Shri Anirudha Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have recommended the construction of a new railway line between Sakri and Hasanpur Road via Nuseshwarasthan on the North Eastern Railway. and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to this proposal?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) No, Sir. The reply of the Bihar Government to the reference calling for a list of new railway lines strictly in order of priority for construction during the Second Five Year Plan period is still awaited.

(b) Does not arise.

#### AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATES

39. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircrafts holding current certificates of registration at the end of October, 1954; and

(b) the number among them which hold current certificates of airworthiness?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) 622.

(b) 194.

#### PILOT LICENCES

40. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of 'A', 'A1' and 'B' pilots holding current licences on the 31st October, 1954?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** Pilots holding current 'A' licence—400, 'A1' licence—Nil, and 'B' licence—446.

#### POST-OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS

41. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages having two thousand or more population where rural Post Offices could not be opened because of the written protests from prominent villagers;

(b) the names of the States where they are situated; and

(c) the number of villages where the scheme was abandoned because (1)