

(b) if so, when a decision is likely to be taken?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). So far sleeping accommodation in III Class has been provided as an experimental measure only on a few selected trains. Two different types of coaches are on trial. The type of sleeper coach to be adopted as the standard is under consideration, and as soon as a decision is taken, construction of additional coaches of that type and putting them on trains on which the services is not now available, will be taken in hand.

Semaria Ghat Accident Report

*1051. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 637 on the 25th November, 1957 regarding sinking of a Railway Barge on the 7th September, 1955 at Semariaghat and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Fact-Finding Committee was appointed by Government;

(b) if so, whether the report of the Committee will be laid on the Table; and

(c) who was responsible for the accident?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Shri Rasul Serang of P. S. Chupra.

Procurement of Rice in Manipur

*1052. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Office in Manipur will continue to deal in rice export business in that territory in view of the fact that the Manipur Apex Co-operative Marketing Society Ltd. has been formed for mar-

keting of all agricultural produce in Manipur;

(b) the number of procuring agents appointed for the purpose of procurement of rice and paddy for the whole territory;

(c) whether their services will be utilised along with those of the co-operative societies for purchase of paddy and rice;

(d) whether there is any proposal to start other co-operative marketing societies in other village centres other than at Moirang; and

(e) what is the procurement price of rice and paddy fixed by Government according to the decision of the recent meeting convened by the Chief Commissioner?

The Minister of Cooperation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (e). The State Trading Organisation would continue to function and purchases will be made through co-operative societies wherever suitable societies exist. In other places purchases will be made either direct from cultivators or through selected procuring agents. The question of revision of the procurement price is under consideration.

Cardamom Experimental Garden

1461. **Shri R. Narayanasamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government propose to open a Cardamom Experimental Garden in Devicoolam Taluq, Kerala State?

The Minister of Cooperation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Yes. The Government of India have sanctioned a scheme for the establishment of a Cardamom Research Station in Kerala State. The site of the station has not so far been finally decided upon.

Damage to Books

1462. **Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that books and magazines imported from abroad