

ance to bear their portion of the cost, as per extant rules.

Plant Diseases

1471. **Shri Sugandhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the plant diseases that caused heavy loss of output to anticipated levels of productions of paddy, wheat, jowar and bajra for the years 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57 state-wise;

(b) whether any preventive or curative remedies have been found out by the research institutions against such diseases;

(c) if so, whether any of these remedial measures have been tried out in any of the project areas; and

(d) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Cooperation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (d). No report of any epidemic of unusual severity was received in respect of these crops during 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57, except in the case of wheat, which was severely attacked by rust in 1955-56 in the Jabalpur division of Madhya Pradesh and some districts of Bihar. In these areas the losses were aggravated because of the drought conditions. A statement showing the list of common plant diseases which affect these crops, their state-wise distribution and remedial or curative methods is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 140]. No report about the trial of these remedial measures in any of the project areas has been received from any of the State Governments but the State Plant Protection Organisations have arranged for extensive demonstration trials for the control of plant diseases by prophylactic treatment with pesticides. Attempts have been made to popularise these measures and methods through publicity, propaganda and demonstration in the National Extension Service, Community Develop-

ment and other areas. The diseases have been successfully controlled wherever known remedial measures have been adopted.

Kurduwadi-Miraj Line

1472. **Shri Sugandhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 729 on the 31st May, 1957 regarding the survey of the narrow gauge line on the Central Railway between Kurduwadi and Miraj Stations and state:

(a) the present daily average number of passenger traffic in this section;

(b) the present daily average volume of goods traffic; and

(c) the estimated cost of converting the present narrow gauge line into a broad gauge line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) 5785.

(b) 260 tons from Kurduwadi to Miraj and 80 tons from Miraj to Kurduwadi.

(c) The cost will be known only after the survey is completed.

Import of Foodgrains

1473. **Shri Yajnik:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice which were imported by Government from abroad during the last five years ending the 31st March, 1957, giving separate figures of the imports of wheat and rice indicating the names of the countries from which the same were imported;

(b) the total amount of the freight-bill or charter hire which was paid on these imports;

(c) the amount of such freight paid to national ships and to foreign ships;