

Railway Passenger Amenities

1430. { Shri Ram Krishan:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the passenger amenities provided during the First Five Year Plan at the stations on the following lines:

(i) Rewari-Loharu and (ii) Ferozepore-Jullundur Lines on the Northern Railway; and

(b) the passenger amenities to be provided during the Second Five Year Plan at these stations, station-wise?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). A statement is attached [See Appendix V, annexure No. 74.]

Well Construction

1430. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans given to States for construction of wells during 1957-58, State-wise;

(b) whether loan has been utilised fully; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) A statement giving the required information is appended. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 75.]

(b) and (c). The information will be available only after the middle of 1958.

Co-operative Credit Society on Northern Railway

1431. { Shri Umrao Singh:
Shri Rup Narain:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Co-operative Credit Society which caters for

the entire staff of the Northern Railway;

(b) if so, which is that Society;

(c) if not, the action taken so far in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Northern Railway Administration is taking steps for extending the jurisdiction of the existing Co-operative Credit Societies on that railway to the areas which are not catered for at present.

Textile Fibre

1432. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bombay has approved a scheme for the cultivation of "Ramie" for producing a high quality Textile fibre; and

(b) whether the Government of India have studied the possibility of using a variety of 'Ramie' known as "Kyvan" yielding good fibres and growing wild in the forests of Kerala?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(b) No variety of 'Ramie' (*Boehmeria nivea*) called "Kyvan" is known to us. The variety "Kyvan" in question probably refers to the 'Kaivun' fibre derived from the plant *Helicteres isora* L. (Sterculiaceae) which yields the most important soft fibre available naturally in the forest areas in Kerala. A few types of *H. isora* collected by the Jute Agricultural Research Institute from different parts of India have been grown at the Institute Farm and these are now under study.