

under the State Governments, Universities or other bodies and the deficiencies pointed out by the Medical Council of India are brought to the notice of the authorities concerned for suitable action. It may be mentioned that a provision of Rs. 71.5 lakhs was included in the First Five Year Plan of the Central Government for the supply of equipment to the medical colleges and research institutions. A provision of Rs. 100 lakhs has also been included in the Second Five Year Plan of the Central Government, for this purpose. The Government of India also sanctioned the payment of cash grants amounting to Rs. 6,71,876 to medical colleges and research institutions, for the purchase of equipment during 1957-58.

#### Famine in Nasik District of Bombay State

\*1873. { Shri Jadhav:  
Shri B. K. Galkwad:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there are serious famine conditions existing in the whole of the Nasik District (Bombay State) due to the failure of Kharif and Rabi crops;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of foodgrains and fodder; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The State Government have not reported any serious famine conditions in the Nasik District.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Baraset-Hasnabad Line

\*1874. Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received a reply from the West Bengal Government regarding acquisition of land and the final alignment of the broad-gauge railway, from Baraset to Hasnabad; and

(b) whether the construction work has started?

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

(b) Construction work will be taken in hand as soon as the possession of land including homestead area is handed over to the Railway by the West Bengal Government.

#### New Coins for Telephone Machines

\*1875. { Shri Kumaran:  
Shri Ramakrishna Reddy:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to make suitable alterations in the telephone machines in order to enable people to use public telephones with the help of decimal coins instead of two-anna coins.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): Yes; experiments are being carried out to convert the existing machines at the earliest possible date.

#### Delhi Electricity Board

2787. Shri Vajpayee: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the net profit, if any, shown by the Delhi City Electricity Board during 1957-58; and

(b) whether the Board has any subscribed capital of its own?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) It is not possible, at this stage, to give the figures of profit shown by the Delhi State Electricity Board during the year 1957-58, as the accounts for that year have not yet been compiled.