

[परिग्रह] तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) तथा (ख), इस सम्बन्ध में एक विवरण-पत्र (Statement) समा के पटल पर रखा दिया गया है। [द्विज्ये परिशिष्ट २, अनुबन्ध संख्या ६०]।

#### Kannapuram Station

746. Shri Vasudevan Nair: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build platform covering at Kannapuram Station in Kerala; and

(b) if so, when the work will be taken in hand?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The proposal for providing a cover over the platform at Kannapuram Railway Station has not been approved by the Railway Users' Amenities Committee for inclusion in the Works Programme for 1958-59, but it will again be put up for their consideration and inclusion in the Works Programme for 1959-60.

#### Shortage of Foodgrains

747. Shri Ball Reddy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains the country will fall short of for 1957-58 and 1958-59;

(b) the steps taken so far to meet the shortage;

(c) how much of the shortage will be met by imports and how much by increased production in the country; and

(d) the steps taken so far to step up domestic production so as to minimise imports?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) to (c). The demand and supply of foodgrains, the difference between which may be said to be the shortage, depend on many variable fac-

tors. Attention is invited to the Report of the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee, which was placed on the table of the House Government's intention is to do everything possible to step up production to the maximum extent, so that the need for imports is kept down. The import requirements have to be assessed every year in the light of actual crop prospects and price trends. During 1957-58, the imports would come to about 3.7 million tons of foodgrains.

(d) The measures taken to step up domestic production include:—

(i) Major and Minor Irrigation Schemes like construction and repair of wells, tanks, channels, small dams, tubewells, etc.

(ii) Land Improvement Schemes like contour bunding, clearance and reclamation of waste lands, mechanical cultivation, etc.

(iii) Distribution of chemical fertilizers like ammonium sulphate, superphosphate, etc.

(iv) Distribution of manures like oil-cake, compost, etc.

(v) Distribution of improved cereal seeds like paddy seeds, wheat seeds, etc.

(vi) Other indirect schemes designed to increase food production, such as plant protection, crop competition, etc.

#### Level Crossing at Nayudupet, Southern Railway

748. Shri R. L. Reddy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vehicular traffic is held up frequently for a considerable time at the South level-crossing on G.N.T. Road at Nayudupet station, Southern Railway, due to shunting operations and train formations; and

(b) if so, what remedy has been contemplated by Government to mitigate the difficulty?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) Sir, it is a fact that there is a certain amount of inconvenience experienced by the public.

(b) It is proposed to construct a road-over-bridge in lieu of this level crossing. The matter regarding the selection of the site, apportionment of the cost etc., is under correspondence between the Railway Administration and the State Government. Pending construction of the overbridge, it is proposed to shift temporarily the level crossing to minimise the inconvenience caused to the public. This matter is also under correspondence with the State Government and is expected to be finalised shortly.

#### **Posts of Wagon Chasers on North Eastern Railway**

**749. Shri Yadav:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1516 on the 11th December, 1957 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 25 per cent posts of wagon chasers in the grade of Rs. 80—160 allotted to office-clerks of the operating section on the North Eastern Railway have not yet been filled; and

(b) if so, why?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Supply of Rice by Punjab**

**750. Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the quantity of rice procured so far by the Punjab Government on behalf of the Central Government?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** Approximately 66,000 tons, upto 20-2-58.

#### **Timber Bridges on Assam Trunk Road**

**751. Shrimati Mafta Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of timber bridges

on the whole of the Assam Trunk Road National Highway 37; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to replace these bridges by permanent ones?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) There are more than hundred timber bridges. The information about the exact figures will be laid on the table of the Sabha after obtaining it from State Government.

(b) Proposals for the reconstruction or improvement of only a few bridges which are considered to be weak are under consideration.

#### **Road-bridge over river Bhogdoi**

**752. Shrimati Mafta Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the road width on the road-bridge over the river Bhogdoi on National Highway No. 37 is narrow and cannot cope with the pedestrian traffic; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to widen it?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). Government of India are aware that the bridge is narrow. Two foot paths have, however, been added to the bridge for the use of pedestrian traffic and the question of further widening the bridge or constructing a new bridge is at present under consideration in consultation with the State Government.

#### **Organised Hooliganism**

**753. Shri Biren Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the organised hooliganism that took place on the 1st of January, 1958 at Sahibganj to molest the members of the Mohan Bagan Football Team, who were returning after