

(c) All these centres except those at New Delhi and Palanpur are in the charge of a Plant Protection Officer, who has a staff of eight others under him. The Stations at New Delhi and Palanpur are each under the charge of a Technical Assistant only, who take guidance from the Senior Technical Officers available there. Each Station is provided with about 100 manually operated, 22 power operated spraying, dusting and other machines, about 15 tons of pesticides and 2 motor vehicles.

Their function is primarily to assist the State Governments in fighting pests and plant disease outbreaks and in technical survey of pests and diseases and in evaluating operational results. They also organise regional training programmes in plant protection for the benefit of State Officials and assess the performance of machines and pesticide under different conditions.

(d) These centres work on regional basis, and not on the basis of the State territories, and in collaborations with the Plant Protection and other extension Organisations of the States. They loan plant protection machines and other equipment at prescribed rates of hire charges and supply pesticides at almost the cost price to Government departments, private organisations and farmers. With a view to popularising the plant protection measures amongst farmers, these centres are to take up shortly, intensive plant protection work in selected areas of gram panchayats near them.

Seed Multiplication Farms in Punjab

386. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Ram Krishan:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the amount allotted to the Punjab Government for the establishment of seed multiplication farms as subsidy during 1958-59?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Rs. 10.65 Lakhs.

Shipping Accidents

387. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Ram Krishan:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of shipping accidents that took place during 1957-58;

(b) the names of places where these accidents occurred;

(c) the number of persons who died or were injured; and

(d) the total amount of compensation paid to the injured and to the next of kin of these killed?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 98.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No 144.]

(d) So far as the casualties in the Mercantile Marine District of Bombay are concerned, no compensation has been paid. Efforts are being made to collect the required information regarding the Mercantile Marine Districts of Calcutta and Madras and it will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as possible.

Surplus Rice in Punjab

388. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Ram Krishan:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how much of the surplus rice in Punjab has been allotted to each of the States in the different Zones for the current year?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): During the period October, 1957 to the end of July 1958, the quantities of Punjab rice supplied to various States and