

Spare for Bulldozers

1537. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been made by the Government of Bombay for releasing foreign exchange to import spare parts for bulldozers during 1959-60; and

(b) if so, whether the required foreign exchange has been sanctioned?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Air-Dropping of Food in West Bengal

1538. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food was air-dropped in the flood affected areas of West Bengal recently;

(b) the total quantity of food so air-dropped;

(c) whether it is also a fact that one man was killed by the food so air-dropped and several persons were injured; and

(d) if so, the total number of persons who sustained injuries and died as a result of the food air-drops

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 500 bags of Chira, about 5,000 lbs. of Gur and about 5,000 maunds of rice.

(c) and (d). 3 persons received injuries in the course of air-dropping; of these, 2 persons died.

Railway Time Table

1539. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how far Railway authorities

have accepted M.Ps' suggestions since the introduction of the scheme of taking opinion of M.Ps in framing Railway Time Tables of various Railway zones?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): The procedure regarding prior consultation with Members of Parliament for suggestions regarding changes in timings of trains etc. before finalisation of the half yearly Time Table was introduced with effect from the issue of the Time Table which came into force from 1-10-54. During the period from 1st October, 1954 to 30th September, 1959, 944 suggestions were received from Members of Parliament by the various Zonal Railways. Out of these, 285 suggestions have been accepted and implemented. The balance of 679 suggestions could not be accepted due to lack of traffic justification, unsuitability of timings proposed and operational difficulties.

Tenkasi Station

1540. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received for treating Tenkasi as a hill station for the purpose of granting hill station travel concession;

(b) if so, whether it has been examined by the Railway Board; and

(c) the nature of the decision arrived at?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Representations have been received for treating Courtallam, which is served by Tenkasi, as a hill station for the purpose of rail concession.

(b) Yes.

(c) The request has not been agreed to.