

Loan to Bombay for Increasing Farm Output

1232. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(i) whether any short term loan has been given to the Government of Bombay during the year 1959-60 for increasing farm output; and

(b) if so, the nature and amount of that loan?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). A short term loan of Rs. 33.00 lakhs was allocated to the Government of Bombay during the year 1959-60 for the purchase and distribution of fertilisers and seeds. The State Government, subsequently, informed us that they did not require any short-term loan and no such loan was ultimately given to them.

Amenities for Third Class Passengers

1233. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether some more amenities are likely to be given to third class passengers during 1960; and

(b) if so, what are those amenities?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The following basic amenities are being provided, on a programmed basis, at stations where they do not exist:—

1. Waiting hall.
2. Benches.
3. Suitable arrangements for lighting waiting hall and booking office.
4. Drinking water supply.
5. Improved type latrine.
6. Pucca platform surface.

7. Proper booking arrangements.

8. Planting shady trees.

Over and above these, additional amenities such as Waiting and Retiring rooms, raising the level of platforms, providing a cover over the entire length or part of the length of the platform etc., are also provided at certain stations, depending upon their relative importance.

The Railway Users' Amenities Committee on each Railway considers the question of amenities to be provided on that Railway and decides which of the amenities are required to be provided at particular stations and priority according to which they should be provided, having due regard to the funds available. Based on their recommendations, the programme for provision of amenities every year on each Railway is drawn up. During 1960, the 3-tier sleeper-coaches that have been provided on a few trains for III class passengers travelling 500 miles and over, without any extra charge, are expected to be provided on a large number of trains. While thus the existing facilities are proposed to be extended to more stations and to more trains, there is, at present, no proposal for any new item of amenity for third class passengers.

Air Service for Ardh Kumbha Mela

1234. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights operated by the Indian Airlines Corporation from different parts of the country to Allahabad in connection with the Ardh Kumbha Mela there;

(b) the number of passengers carried; and

(c) the total amount of earnings accruing to the I.A.C. as compared to the expenditure involved?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) to (c). In order to meet the rush of passengers to Allahabad in connection with