

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). It has come to the notice of the Government of India that supplies against agricultural quotas of iron and steel are inadequate and that the agriculturists are not getting full benefit of the agricultural quota allotted. The steps that should be taken to improve the supply and distribution in the States was considered in a Conference at Calcutta held in April, 1959 under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister for Agriculture. The Iron & Steel Controller, the representatives of the State Governments and the Ministry of Food & Agriculture participated in the Conference. The Conference, *inter alia* recommended that in order to improve the supply of iron and steel against agricultural quota, it should be accorded a very high priority ('core' priority). The recommendation has since been accepted and the essential requirements for agricultural purposes have since been included in the 'core' priority.

It was also recommended that an officer of the Agriculture Department in the States should be authorised under the Iron & Steel Control Order to operate the agricultural quota of iron and steel and that he should see that agricultural quota is actually utilised for agricultural production. The recommendation has been accepted and is being implemented by most of the State Governments. It is hoped that the agriculturists will now get full benefit of the quota of iron and steel earmarked for them.

New Locomotives

1807. Shri Achar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new locomotives that were employed by the Railways during the years 1958-1959 and 1959-60;

(b) the number of the new locomotives allotted to each of the Zonal Railways; and

(c) the basis on which the said allotment was made?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 46.]

(c) The allotments were made with due regard to the requirements of each zonal railway to meet additional traffic, as well as for the replacement of overaged locomotives.

Area Under Cultivation

1808. { Shri Agadi:
Shri Sugandhi:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the present percentage of irrigable area of net sown area, State-wise; and

(b) the same after completing the Second Five Year Plan projects?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) A statement giving net area sown and net irrigated area in India with percentage of net irrigated area to net sown area for the year 1956-57 is laid on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 47.]

(b) Major and medium irrigation projects taken up in First and Second Plan periods on completion and on full development will irrigate about 38.51 million acres.

Drainage in Areas of Punjab and Delhi

1809. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three-man Committee appointed to report on the schemes necessary for removing the drainage congestion in certain areas of Punjab adjoining Delhi has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The