

completed during the Fifth Five Year Plan.

(c) Geophysical and geological surveys in the District of Cachar are in progress.

Programme to Cope with Holiday Summer Traffic

8018. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out a programme to cope up with the holiday/summer traffic at important Railway Stations in the country; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) About 500 special trains on Madras—New Delhi, Bombay Central—New Delhi—Jammu Tawi, Bombay VT—Ernakulam, Howrah—Madras, Bombay VT—Varanasi and other important routes will be run to cope with the holiday/summer traffic. Besides, arrangements have been made to augment loads of various trains consistent with the hauling capacity of the locomotives.

Cash stolen from Booking Office of Sabarmati Railway Station (Western Railway)

8019. SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently more than Rs. 4,000 has been stolen from the Booking office of Sabarmati Railway Station of Western Railway, when the Head Booking Clerk was busy in preparing the Bundles for the Cash remittance;

(b) how the responsibility of the loss of Rs. 4000 stolen has been fixed and the persons found responsible for the same; and

(c) how many times during the last three years the Booking Office of Sabarmati Station was inspected by the Divisional Superintendent, Divisional Comml. Superintendent, Divisional Accounts Officer, D.C.M.I., C.M.L. and A/Cs Inspectors and how many times they have pointed out the unsafe working conditions of the Sabarmati Booking Office?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes. Rs. 4123/- were stolen from Railway Booking Office, Sabarmati on 23rd November, 1972.

(b) Staff responsibility has been fixed after a joint enquiry by Assistant Officers. Two Railway employees namely Shri Y. A. Malhotra, officiating Head Booking Clerk, Sabarmati and Shri P. P. Parmar Assistant coaching clerk have been held responsible and recommended for departmental action.

(c) Booking Office was inspected by Assistant Commercial Superintendent Baroda twice in the year 1970 and, once by the Divisional Superintendent Baroda in the year 1972. The Inspector of Accounts also inspected Sabarmati station twice in 1972. In all these inspections no one has pointed out the unsafe condition of the Booking Office at Sabarmati.

Congestion in Reservation Office, Madras, Olavakkot and Madurai

8020. SHRI T. S. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Teleprinter circuits installed in the Reservation office, Madras Central; and

(b) the action taken to provide sufficient accommodation and other facilities for efficient working of the staff handling the teleprinters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) 4 Nos.

(b) The existing accommodation in the reservation office at Madras Central has been suitably re-arranged to provide space for efficient functioning of Teleprinters. The present reservation office along with Teleprinters will be shifted to more spacious accommodation on completion of the proposed alteration to the Madras Central station building.

Cases relating to Enhancement of Compensation under the Land Acquisition Act with Delhi High Court

8021, SHRI DALIP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of cases filed in the Delhi High Court for enhancement of compensation under the Land Acquisition Act during the last three years; and

(b) how many of these cases have been disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) 762.

(b) 4.

12.01 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED AGITATION IN MAHARASHTRA OVER NON-AVAILABILITY OF FOOD SUPPLIES AND DEATHS DUE TO POLICE FIRING

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported agitation in many parts of Maharashtra over the non-availability of food supplies and firing by police on agitated crowds resulting in the death of several persons."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): Sir, I wish to share with the Hon'ble Members our deep concern over the unhappy incidents reported from Maharashtra following an agitation there by people demanding, among other things, additional supply of foodgrains. The fact that some human lives have been lost in these incidents shows the gravity of the situation. A detailed report has been asked for from the State Government.

I have had the privilege to place before the House the present difficult food situation and the steps taken to meet the food requirements of all the deficit and drought affected States, within the stocks that are available with the Central Government.

In view of the severe drought conditions prevailing in the State of Maharashtra and to relieve the acute distress condition, the supply of foodgrains from the Central stocks has been considerably stepped up; during the year 1972, a little over 13 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were supplied to Maharashtra as against 8.4 lakh tonnes during 1971. Again, during the first three months of the current year, the State Government was supplied nearly 5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. Allotments of foodgrains are made to the State Governments every month, taking into account the overall availability in the Central Pool and the needs of all deficit and drought-affected States. In view of the difficult food supply position in the country resulting from last year's inadequate and erratic rains and consequent widespread drought conditions in the country, it has not been possible to meet the entire demand made by the Government of Maharashtra as well as several other States but every effort has been made to meet substantially the requirements of the State Governments.