

The mortality of animals and birds in the Delhi Zoo is low compared to world standards. The annual mortality percentage in Washington National Park is 18%; in the Delhi Zoo the mortality of 29% in 1959-60 has dropped to 18% in 1960-61 and to 9% in 1961-62.

Breeding of Indian Horses

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

(a) the steps so far taken by Government to improve the breed of Indian horses; and

(b) whether Government have brought some horses from other countries in this connection?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) (i) Improvement of livestock including horses is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The state Animal Husbandry Departments have been maintaining superior stallions in their veterinary hospitals etc. where mating facilities are provided. The Governments of Maharashtra, Mysore, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh are also having small horse breeding establishments where superior stallions are maintained/produced for breeding purposes.

(ii) To supplement the efforts of the State Governments, the Government of India have sponsored a scheme for the establishment of an Equine Breeding Farm and five Stud Stands under the Third Five-Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 lakhs. The Farm will serve as a nucleus for coordinated development of equines in hilly areas and as a source of superior breeding stallions for village areas.

(iii) The Government of India liberalised the policy for import of horses during 1961-62 so as to enable recognised Stud Farms, Turf Clubs and individual breeders to import good quality horses for breeding purposes. Under this policy 82 animals valued at

Rs. 6,80,000/- were imported during 1961-62.

(b) Import of horses for the proposed Equine Breeding Farm has not yet taken place. The Himachal Pradesh Administration have, however, imported in recent years two stallions and four brood mares of connemare breed from Ireland. The Government of Mysore have also recently been allowed to import horses worth Rs. one lakh for their Stud Farm at Kunigal.

Increasing of Trains between Varanasi and Gorakhpur

456. Shri Vishram Prasad: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to increase the number of trains between Varanasi and Gorakhpur on the North-Eastern Railway to minimise the overcrowding in trains; and

(b) if so, when they propose to introduce more trains?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to introduce an additional passenger train each way between Gorakhpur and Varanasi with effect from 1st October, 1962 replacing one pair of existing trains viz. 73 Down and 74 Up between Gorakhpur and Bhatni.

Irrigation Projects in Kerala

**457. { Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Imbichibava:**

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2467 on the 4th June, 1962 and state:

(a) whether the reply to the comments of the Central Water and Power Commission on Kallada, Pamba and Kanjirapuzha Irrigation Projects have been received;