

Agricultural Production

*717. **Shri P. C. Borooah**: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is some scheme for giving special assistance to the States to help them boost agricultural production and whether this aid would be in addition to the Third Plan allocation;

(b) if so, the broad features of the scheme; and

(c) the part of this aid being allotted to the State of Assam?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) to (c). The question of additional allocation of funds for agricultural programmes during the remaining period of the Third Plan is under the consideration of the Planning Commission.

Railway Accidents Committee

*718. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain recommendations of the Railway Accidents Committee, particularly those relating to the provision of speedometers and third-brake coaches in the front portion of passenger trains, made long ago have not been implemented so far; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in their implementation?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). The recommendations about the provision of speedometers and third-luggage-brakes etc. on the passenger trains, which had been made earlier also, have been implemented as far as possible and efforts are being made to augment the resources for their speedy implementation.

Konkan Shipping Service

*719. **Shri Kajrolkar**: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the Konkan shipping service has not started;

(b) whether it is a fact that the shipping Company is not going to start the service this year as long as it does not get Rs. 28 lakhs from Maharashtra Government;

(c) whether he is also aware that the stoppage of shipping has caused and is causing great hardship to the Konkan line passengers; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir. The Konkan shipping service which was scheduled to start on 1st September, 1963, has not commenced service owing to persistent bad weather.

(b) It is not correct that a sum of Rs. 28 lakhs is claimed by the shipping company from Maharashtra Government. However, negotiations are going on between the Maharashtra Government and the company for the settlement of company's claims and for the opening of the services.

(c) and (d). The question does not arise for the present as the weather conditions as yet do not permit the resumption of the service. Meanwhile, it is hoped that the company's claims will be settled by the Maharashtra Government.

Earthquake in Kashmir

*719-A. { **Shri Sham Lal Saraf**:
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether wholesale destruction of houses with loss of human lives.