

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Before the extension was given, the complaints were investigated into and were found to be lacking in substance.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: What were the complaints?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: There were 3 or 4 of them. Instead of repeating all this and the various supplementaries, I may refer the hon. Member to question No. 134 dated 21st August 1957 in the House, recently when these questions were replied to by the Minister.

FISH BOAT CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTRE AT COCHIN

*386. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) from what date the Fish Boat Construction Training Centre has started functioning at Cochin;

(b) what is the period and extent of training that is being given there;

(c) how many trainees are being trained at a time, and who is bearing the expenses of these trainees; and

(d) what are the minimum educational qualifications required for admission to this centre?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA) : (a) 1st July 1957.

(b) Six months, upto the end of December, 1957. The training given at the Centre will enable the Fisheries Officers of the State Governments to undertake construction of new designs of small power fishing boats.

(c) Ten trainees are undergoing training at present at the Centre. The expenses of nine trainees from State Governments are to be borne by the State Governments concerned and that

of the trainee from Buganda Government by that Government.

(d) The trainees should be State Government nominees of the Fisheries Department of the States concerned and should have experience in fishing craft and tackle used in the respective States. Some technical background in fisheries is also desirable.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know from which States these candidates have come?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: From West Bengal 1, Orissa 1, Madras 2, Kerala 2, Mysore 2 and Bombay 1.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether there is going to be another course after the first is over?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: We will decide at the end of the course because one F.A.O. Technical expert Mr. Paul Zeinar is now training them and it will depend upon the duration of his stay.

REPORT OF THE AMERICAN RAILWAY ENGINEERS UNDER THE INDO-AMERICAN TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

*387. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the team of American railway engineers, which visited India under the Indo-American Technical Co-operation Programme, has submitted its final report to Government;

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations; and

(c) which of them have been accepted by Government and what steps are being taken to implement them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

12 NOON

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION NO. 7

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under the rules, a short notice question is required to be put by the Member in whose name the question stands. In the present case, Shri Ramakrishna Iyer has authorised Shri Rajagopal Naidu. If, however, it is the desire of the House that the question should be put and answered and the Minister has no objection, I shall allow Shri Naidu to put the question.

(This was agreed to by the hon. Minister and the House.)

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER**EXPLOSION OF A WAGON LOADED WITH CRACKERS**

7. SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (ON BEHALF OF SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER) : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that an explosion occurred on 21st August, 1957 of a wagon loaded with crackers in the Yard of Katpadi Junction in the Southern Railway;

(b) if so, the cause of such an explosion;

(c) the number of lives lost and other casualties, the quantity of material lost and the amount of loss to the Railway; and

(d) what steps do Government propose to take to prevent recurrence of such an accident?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under investigation.

(c) 8 killed and 9 injured.

Amount of loss

	Rs. approximately
(a) Building	2,500
(b) Rolling Stock	20,000
(c) Consignments	8,000
TOTAL	30,500

(d) Booking of fire-works has been stopped on all the railways until further orders.

Further steps, as required, will be taken in the light of the results of the enquiries into the cause of the accidents at Katpadi and Asansol which are in progress.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know the value of the consignments that are now held up owing to this ban now imposed?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: We do not have information on that.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to insist on the compulsory insurance against third party risks instead of detaining the wagons which are now loaded with crackers?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It may be considered. Sir.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know, Sir, whether it has reached the notice of Government that this explosion had been caused by the rough handling by the persons who are responsible for the transshipment from metre-gauge to broad gauge at Katpadi junction?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Sir, the whole matter is now under investigation and it is premature to say what was the cause of the explosion.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know, Sir, whether any interim compensation has been paid to the dependants of those who lost their lives in this explosion?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: No Sir, not yet.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, whether this is the first explosion of its kind?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: This is the second.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Will insurance make the explosives not explod-able?

(No answer.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chaman Lall, you wanted to put a question.

DEW AN CHAMAN LALL: That was about payment of compensation and it has already been put. But if I may follow up that question: May I know why no steps have been taken to provide compensation for those who were killed, I mean to the families of those killed in this explosion?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Compensation will be paid in accordance with the Workmen's Compensation Act or the provisions of the Accidents Act and for that certain enquiries have to be made. As soon as that is completed, it will be paid.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will Government place on the Table of the House the report of the investigation with regard to this explosion?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I will consider that.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

*368. SHRI N. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units of the Central Tractor Organisation and their respective strength in 1956-57;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce the number of these units during the current year; and

(c) if so, the reasons for such a reduction?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) 16; a unit normally consist of 15 tractors.

(b) Yes; by two units.

(c) This is due to the scrapping of 34 tractors which have outlived their life and are beyond economical repair.

REQUIREMENT AND PRODUCTION OF ARTIFICIAL FERTILISERS IN 1956-57

*388. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total estimated requirement of artificial fertilizers in the country in 1956-57; and

(b) what was the quantity of artificial fertilizers produced in the country during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture procure and supply only nitrogenous fertilisers to States and such other cooperative interests as the manure mixing firms for tea, coffee etc. The figures of estimated require • ments and production of these for 1956, which were collected on Calendar year basis, are as given below: —

Name of fertiliser	Estimated requirements during 1956 (long tons)	Production during 1956 (long tons)
Sulphate of ammo- nia	6,13,000	3,88,990
Urea	24,600	..
Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate	17,900	..

REPRESENTATION FROM PINE-APPLE CANNING INDUSTRY IN TRICHUR

*389. SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: Will the Minister of