

Fisheries in Punjab

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

(a) the extent of central aid given to the erstwhile States of Pepsu and Punjab under the First and Second Five Year Plans and to the re-organised Punjab State since its formation for the development of fisheries, and

(b) the central financial aid sought for by the Punjab State for the development of fisheries in the Second Plan and the amount allotted?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) During the First Five Year Plan Rs 6,440 and Rs 12,600 were sanctioned as grants to the Governments of Punjab and Pepsu respectively. During the Second Five Year Plan upto 1-11-56, the date of re-organisation of States a loan of Rs 70,000 and the grant of Rs 19,820 were sanctioned to Punjab and Rs 22,618 as grant to Pepsu. To the reorganised Punjab State the loan and grant sanctioned were Rs 1,40,800 and Rs 35,972 respectively.

(b) For the Second Five Year Plan period the erstwhile Pepsu State asked for a sum of Rs 6 lakhs and Punjab 5.03 lakhs. As against this, a total of Rs 11 lakhs was allotted.

Wheat Crop in Bihar

*315. Shri Shree Narayan Das. Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether the cause of almost complete destruction of wheat crop in a large area in Bihar has been investigated by the experts,

(b) if so, the results of such investigations,

(c) the agency through which investigations have been made;

(d) the steps taken to prevent such damage in future,

(e) whether the type of rust that affected the crop has been found out; and

(f) if so, wherefrom the attack came?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (f) A statement is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix I, annexure No 96]

Delay in Transit of Parcels

*316. Dr. Ram Subagh Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the long delays occurring in the transit of parcels chargeable at higher rates,

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to speed up the movement and delivery of such parcels, and

(c) if so, what are the main features of that proposal?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan). (a) While the time taken in transit of parcels generally is not excessive there have been also many cases in which delays including heavy delays, have occurred

(b) and (c) The special measures which are generally being taken towards speeding up of parcels and those that are proposed to be taken are furnished in a Statement which is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix I, annexure No 97]

Inland River Transport Services

*317. Shri Mahanty: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) the total number of foreigners employed in the inland river transport services,

(b) whether they continue to be employed for special technical skill and knowledge?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) The figure as in January 1956, was 12,000. Uptodate information is being collected.

(b) In view of their experience.