

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) Yes Sir, a scheme for the organization of co-operatives of handcart pliers on a pilot basis has been sanctioned.

(b) The Central Government will provide (i) loans to state governments to the extent the latter advance loans to societies for purchase of hand carts subject to the maximum of Rs. 10,000 per society repayable within a period of five years in equated annual instalments, (ii) grants to state governments/union territories to give subsidies for managerial expenses upto Rs. 900/- per society spread over a period of 3 to 5 years. The subsidy will be shared on 50:50 basis with the State government.

(c) So far, no society has been organised under this scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

Motor Transport in Tripura

568. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vehicles engaged in transport in Tripura;

(b) total number of persons working as drivers and assistants in these motor transport;

(c) the highest and lowest rate of wages paid to these workers; and

(d) whether Government propose to introduce any minimum wage rate for these employees?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 1619 (As on 29-10-1962).

(b) 2561 (1659 drivers and 902 driver assistants).

(c) Rs. 175/- and Rs. 50/- respectively, per month.

(d) The matter is under the consideration of the Tripura Administration.

P. and T. Employees

569. { **Shri Buta Singh:**
 Shri Gulshan:

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of P. & T. Officials with service of three years and more whose services were terminated under Rule 5 of Temporary services Rules throughout India during 1960, 1961 and upto October, 1962 for reasons unconnected with the General Strike of July, 1960;

(b) the number of Scheduled Caste employees among them; and

(c) the reasons for not awarding quasi-permanency to the above-said officials?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Farm Output

570. **Shri Sezhiyan:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the short-term loans given by the Central Government to the different State Governments for increasing farm output during 1960-61 and 1961-62; and

(b) the outstanding loan amounts and interests repayable by the States towards the loans granted prior to 1st April, 1960?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 65].

(b) The Accountants General concerned are responsible for the recovery of loans granted by the Central Government. Information regarding the outstanding loan amounts and interest repayable by the States on loans granted prior to 1-4-1960 is not, therefore, readily

available in this Ministry. The required information is being collected from the Accountants General and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Construction of Railway Lines in Punjab

571. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) how many miles of new railway lines have been constructed in Punjab under the First and Second Plan periods; and

(b) the new railway lines proposed to be opened in Punjab during the Third Plan period?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):

(a) Information about construction of railway lines is not compiled State-wise but Railway-wise. From available records it has, however, been seen that out of the works carried out during the First and Second Five Year Plan periods, about 40 miles of new lines and about 54 miles of restorations of dismantled lines were in the Punjab State.

(b) Out of the new lines provided in the Railway's programme for the Third Five Year Plan as published by the Planning Commission, 1:27 miles portion of the Madhopur-Kathua line falls within the Punjab State.

Opening of new stations in Ferozepore Division

572. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state the number of new stations to be opened in Ferozepore Division of Northern Railway during 1962-63?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): One flag station has been opened and the question of opening two train Halts is under consideration.

Covering shed on Passenger Platform at Baitarani Road Railway Station

573. Shri Mallick: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided by Government to construct one covering shed on the Passenger Platform at Baitarani Road Railway station under South Eastern Railway in Orissa;

(b) if so, the total amount to be spent for this purpose; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir.

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

Consumption of Tobacco

574. Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether Government have made any assessment of the quantity of tobacco which is being consumed inside the country every year?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): Yes. A statement indicating the all India break up of tobacco consumption, typewise, for the past 5 years is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 66].

Pilot Projects for Tobacco

**575. { Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri P. Kunhan:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposals to set up pilot projects for growing flue-cured Virginia tobacco;

(b) if so, the details of this scheme and which sites have been selected for setting up these pilot projects; and