

received injuries when a light engine ran into a workman's train near about Maniram station on the Gorakhpur Anand Nagar section of North-Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the causes of the accident; and

(c) the total amount of loss sustained by the Railways?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, at Maniram Station.

(b) Failure of railway staff.

(c) Approximate cost of damage to Railway property was Rs. 1,981.

Poplars to be Grown in U.P.

561. Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Poplar", a quick growing plant imported from Italy, will be grown in Uttar Pradesh on a large scale; and

(b) if so, its utility and the places where it will be grown in Uttar Pradesh?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Experiments are being conducted for growing imported varieties of Poplars on a large scale in Uttar Pradesh. Some species are showing good promise of growth, but more trials will be needed at least for 2 to 3 years before final conclusions could be arrived at.

(b) Poplars are fast growing species which yield superior quality of wood for paper pulp, matches, plywood, packing cases, etc.

If found suitable, Poplars will be grown in the Tarai region of Uttar Pradesh.

Postmen in Punjab

562. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs be

pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Postmen at present in different Post Offices in Punjab; and

(b) the house rent paid to them annually?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri Bhagavati): (a) 2,171.

(b) Rs. 4,000.00 (Approximately).

Research in Coconut Diseases

563. Shri Kappen: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Coconut Research Station at Kayangulam is going to be developed as an institute for basic research in coconut diseases; and

(b) if so, the nature of research to be made?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). The Central Coconut Research Station, Kayangulam is already conducting research on Coconut diseases. The proposal for the development of this Station into an Institute to undertake research on the pests and diseases of coconut and arecanut is under consideration.

C.D. Movement

564. Shri Balakrishnan: Will the Minister of Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government have approached the Centre with a request to extend the community development movement to the municipal areas; and

(b) if so, the Central Government's reaction thereto?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Requests for the extension of the C.D. programme

to municipal areas were received from two States—Bihar and Kerala.

The Government of Bihar requested inclusion of certain areas of Kishanganj Municipality in the District of Purnea within the C.D. programme. These areas formed part of nine villages which were transferred from West Bengal to Bihar. The request of the Bihar Government was complied with, as the territory in question was not part of a Municipality but was an addition to a Municipal area under special circumstances and the character of this area was predominantly rural unlike the rest of the Municipality.

In the case of Kerala the inclusion in the C.D. programme of Municipalities of a rural nature whose population does not exceed 25,000 has been agreed to subject to certain conditions viz.

(i) The overall requirement of the Block concerned should not be affected in any way;

(ii) The concurrence of the Block Development Committee should be obtained;

(iii) The utilisation of funds is restricted only to Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Minor Irrigation; and

(iv) No expenditure is incurred on the establishment of institutions and facilities which are normally provided by Municipalities.

Telegraph Offices

565. **Shri H. C. Soy:** Will the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a big area of over 150 sq. miles extending from Rajkharswan on South-Eastern Railway to Chakradharpur and area north of this line has only one Post Office and no Telegraph Office except one at Chakradharpur; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to open new Post Offices at

Gopidihi and Toklo and Telegraph offices at Rajkharswan and Kharswan and Goilkera in Singhbhum District in Bihar?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri Bhagavati): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, a post office has been sanctioned for Toklo, but there is no proposal at present for opening a post office at Gopidihi.

Telegraph offices also exist already at Kharswan and Goilkera. The question of providing telegraph facilities at Rajkharswan is under examination and a Telegraph Office will be sanctioned, if found remunerative.

The Institute of Agricultural Economics and Co-operation

566. **Dr. Mahadeva Prasad:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some amount has recently been granted to the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Co-operation at Gorakhpur; and

(b) if so, the distinguishing features of the above-mentioned Institute?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

BOX Wagons

567. { **Shri Heda:**
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the introduction of box-wagons, there has been improvement in carrying capacity and total volume of goods carried;

(b) the number of box wagons introduced so far and the extent of improvement achieved in terms of excess load carried and increase in freight revenue; and