

suggested the framework within which the courses in each subject in the Agricultural Colleges should be revised. These recommendations have been communicated to the State Governments and Vice-Chancellors for their suggestions before a model syllabus is drawn up.

(b) The question of writing any books does not arise.

#### SHUTTLE TRAINS BETWEEN TRIVANDRUM AND SHENCOTAH

**450. Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of shuttles that are now running between Trivandrum Quilon and Shencotah;

(b) the number that were running formerly; and

(c) the reasons for the reduction, if any, in the number of shuttles?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). From 1st January 1946 the number of shuttle trains running on the Shencotah-Quilon-Trivandrum Central Section is as follows:—

One each way between Shencotah and Punalur. Two each way between Punalur and Quilon. Four each way between Quilon-Trivandrum Central.

(c) There has been no reduction in train services on this section from 1st January 1946.

#### SOIL SURVEY

**451. Shri Heda:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether plans are afoot to make a country-wide soil survey?

(b) If so, what are the salient features of those plans?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Yes, under the Technical Co-operation Agreement with U.S.A.

(b) The salient features are:

(1) the Establishment of a Soil Testing Laboratory at I.A.R.I. with equipment worth about 2,00,000 dollars to be supplied by the U.S.A. and a regional Soil Testing service. For this purpose the country is divided into six major soil regions with centres at Poona, Delhi, Kanpur, Coimbatore and Sabour.

(2) A Soil Survey unit is located at each of the above centres for examination of master profiles, Soil samples and associated samples which will be analysed for their chemical composition.

(3) Collation and compilation of results of analyses including preparation of soil maps by the I.A.R.I.

(4) Collection of 2 monoliths for each master profile, one for use in the States and the other at the I.A.R.I.

(5) Assistance by U.S.A. by providing a Soil Scientist and specialists in Soil Survey to the extent required and also by giving facilities of training to suitable Indian Officers in tracer technique, green house laboratory investigations, and in cartography.

#### AIR-CONDITIONED COACHES

**452. Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many air-conditioned coaches are run on the Indian Railways;

(b) how many of these have been introduced since May, 1952; and

(c) the comparative cost of an air-conditioned coach and a I Class coach?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) 24 coaches.

(b) 2 coaches for conversion of the weekly air conditioned service between Howrah and Madras into a bi-weekly service from 17th January 1953.

(c) A Broad Gauge air conditioned coach costs about Rs. 2,72,000 compared with a cost of about Rs. 1,62,000 for a Broad Gauge first class coach.

#### CONTRACTUAL CLAIMS AGAINST N.W. RAILWAY

**453. Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many claims have been received by the Government of India in terms of the Press communique dated, the 23rd May, 1948 for supplies made to the old N.W. Railway, what is their aggregate amount, how many have been settled and for what amount;

(b) whether there are still any pre-Partition contractual claims pending with the Northern Railway for settlement, if so, what is their number and what is the total amount involved;