

Government have got any estimate of soil erosion—both rain erosion and wind erosion?

(b) If so, what is the estimate?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) No quantitative estimate is available.

(b) Does not arise.

DERAILMENT OF WAGONS BETWEEN DINDIGUL AND TRICHINOPOLY

377. Shri Muniswamy: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that derailment of 11 wagons of goods train had taken place between Dindigul and Trichinopoly Stations on the Southern Railway during the last week of July, 1953?

(b) Were there any casualties due to the accident?

(c) Did the accident take place during night time?

(d) What were the main causes of the accident?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. On 29-7-1953, No. 2609 Goods on the run between Kalpattichatram and Ayyalur stations on the Trichinopoly-Madura Metre Gauge Section of the Southern Railway, was derailed,

(b) Yes. The Guard and the two brakemen sustained slight injuries.

(c) No. The accident took place at 10-35 A.M.

(d) Failure of the driver and the Guard of the train to apply the brakes as required by rules to prevent the parted rear portion from running away.

ड्रेजर

३७८. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या परिवहन मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) भारत सरकार के भारत में कितने वकेट ड्रेजर, डिप्पर ड्रेजर और सेक्शन ड्रेजर हैं ;

(ख) भारत में कितने ड्रेजरों की आवश्यकता है ; और

(ग) विदेशी कम्पनियों के कितने ड्रेजर भारत में इस समय काम कर रहे हैं ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The information is not readily available and is being collected. It will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) No information is available with the Government of India.

RURAL POST OFFICES IN BIHAR

379. Shri Ram Dhani Das: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many rural post offices will be opened during the year 1953 in the State of Bihar?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): 286 rural post offices are proposed to be opened in the State of Bihar during 1953-54.

INTERNATIONAL FARM YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

380. Shri Muniswamy: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some Indian farmer students have been sent to the United States of America to get first-hand experience of American method of cultivation?

(b) Has the selection of these students been made and to what States do they belong?

(c) Are there lady-students among them?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. They came from fifteen different States of India although the final selections were made on basis of suitability and not on State-basis.