

Soil Testing Laboratories

1802. **Shri Inder J. Malhotra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to hand over the soil testing laboratories to the State Governments; and

(b) if so, when these transfers will take place?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) Yes.

(b) In accordance with the existing agreement with the State Governments for establishing the Soil Testing Laboratories in the country, the transfers of the Soil Testing Laboratories to the State Governments are scheduled to take place on the dates on which these laboratories complete three years from the dates of their inception.

Shipping Development Fund

1803. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 64 on the 4th August, 1959 and state the foreign exchange content of the Shipping Development Fund?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The Shipping Development Fund, set up in terms of the provision contained in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 is purely a rupee fund constituted mainly for the purpose of granting rupee loans to the Indian Shipping Companies for acquisition of ships. The question of finding adequate foreign exchange for acquisition of ships is outside the purview of the fund.

Waiting Hall at Panchrukhi Station

1804. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Third Class Waiting Hall was sanctioned

last year at Panchrukhi Station on the Kangra Valley Railway section of the Northern Railway; and

(b) if so, the reasons for its being given up?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Goods Sheds at Pathankot Station

1805. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of goods sheds at Pathankot station for goods to be booked for Kangra District; and

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that due to the accumulation of goods, the Pathankot officials stop booking of goods to the upward station on the Kangra Valley Railway section of the Northern Railway for weeks together or book it by turns?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) No, there is no difficulty so far as shed accommodation is concerned.

(b) Restrictions on booking of goods traffic to the Kangra Valley Section had, however, to be imposed for certain types of traffic from Pathankot and stations on Ferozepur Division for certain periods between 27-7-1959 and 24-8-1959 owing to the traffic offering being in excess of the transport capacity over the Kangra Valley Narrow Gauge section and the capacity for transshipment at Pathankot.

Rural Water Supply Scheme in Punjab

1806. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3428 on the 23rd April, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have submitted the rural water supply schemes to the Central Government for the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan; and