

(b) whether the work is being done by the State Government or by the Centre?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The scheme for widening and deepening the outfall channel has not yet been sanctioned. The Project Report and estimate for the work are being scrutinised by the Central Water and Power Commission.

(b) The work will be executed by the State Government.

Reduction in Manganese Freight Rates

1561. Shri Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 643 on the 21st August, 1959 and state whether there is any proposal to reduce further the manganese freight rate?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): No, Sir.

Bodinayakanur-Madurai Branch Line

1562. Shri Gulam Mohideen: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loss incurred by Government from 1st April to 30th September, 1959 on the Bodinayakanur-Madurai branch line of the Southern Railway; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken to convert that line into a profitable one?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Approximately Rs. 78,000, without taking into account interest charges.

(b) The following steps have been taken or are under consideration to reduce the loss, by reducing the ex-

penditure on the section and increasing the earnings:—

Reduction in expenditure

(i) The goods train service is kept to the absolute minimum. Also, the question of converting one of the two passenger trains now being run over the section into a mixed train is under consideration.

(ii) The possibility of closing down one or two stations on the section as Block Stations and operating them as flag stations is under examination.

Increase in earnings:

(i) The prospects of developing passenger traffic by reducing the fares for Third Class in competition with the Road services is under examination.

(ii) Arrangements are being made to provide a Quick Transit Service for developing cardamom traffic originating on this section.

Sea Island Cotton

1563. Shri Jinachandran: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total acreage under cultivation with Sea Island Cotton in the year 1958-59;

(b) what was the average yield per acre; and

(c) what is the total acreage now under cultivation of this cotton?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) 1,049 acres.

(b) 252 lbs. of kapas.

(c) An area of 3,955 acres (3,065 acres in Kerala State and 900 acres in Mysore State) has been sown with Sea Island Cotton during 1959-60.

Research, Design and Standards Organisation

1564. Shri Basumatari: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to locate the Research, Design