

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) A scheme for research on the diseases of fruits in the hilly areas of Punjab has been sanctioned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for a period of five years from 1st April, 1963;

(b) The scheme will be worked out at Sultanpur (Kulu Valley) and the estimated expenditure is Rs. 60,300 for a period of five years.

Railway link with Pakistan

*422. { Shri Mantri:
Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has taken up the question of a direct railway link between East Pakistan and West Pakistan through India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The question of grant of transit facilities by India and Pakistan for the rail movement of civilians traffic (passengers, parcels and goods) passing from one area to another of the same country through the other country has been under the consideration of Government for some time but no final decision in the matter has so far been arrived at.

Shipping Tonnage

*423. { Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:
Shri Mantri:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Shipping Board has asked for more funds for the acquisition of new tonnage; and

(b) if so, action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No

such request has been received after the Third Plan target for gross acquisition was raised from 3,75,000 G.R.T. to 5,50,000 G.R.T.

(b) Does not arise.

Employment to Agriculturists

*424. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the main features and nature of Rajasthan Government's scheme to provide employment to 4.25 lakh agriculturists in the State and to increase agricultural production; and

(b) what is Central Government's reaction to the proposal?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) The Government of Rajasthan mentioned that there are 4.25 lakh agriculturists in the State and they could be resettled on an area of 122.5 lakh acres of unoccupied cultivable wastelands in the State. The estimated cost would be about Rs. 20 crores.

(b) As the progress of the work will depend upon the phased programme and the administrative resources available, the State Government has been asked to draw up a phased programme of reclamation and resettlement on the lands indicating the number of families to be settled, the area to be allotted and the estimated expenditure from year to year.

Import of Rice from Burma

{ Shri P.C. Borooh:
Shri Maheswar Naik:
*425. { Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:
Shri Mantri:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed between India and Burma for