

### Farakka Bridge

**\*18. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in having a direct route to North Bengal without transshipment;

(b) in view of emergency if the bridge across Farakka is being expedited; and

(c) whether any alternative proposals are being considered?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) A broad gauge line connection from Calcutta to Siliguri has already been provided with a ferry across the Ganga at Farakka. Wagons are carried over the ferry without transshipment.

(b) and (c). In what way, and to what extent, the construction of the bridge can be expedited, is receiving urgent consideration.

### Quality Control

**\*19.** { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**  
**Shri Bishanchander Seth:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**

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

(a) what steps have been taken to introduce a quality control scheme for cashew, black pepper, chillies and cardamom;

(b) whether any facilities have been provided to the growers and traders to improve the quality; and

(c) what has been the position of the export of these products by way of foreign exchange earnings, item-wise?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) Compulsory Quality Control before export on black pepper, chillies and cardamom has been introduced with effect from 1st January, 1963. The scheme is be-

ing operated by the Spices Export Promotion Council under the supervision of the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India, Nagpur. Similarly, Compulsory Quality Control before export on cashew is likely to be implemented by the Cashew Export Promotion Council very shortly.

(b) Short-term loans are being sanctioned to the State Governments for rejuvenation of the old cardamom plantations, which have declined or are in the process of decay. In so far as the traders are concerned, the Export Promotion Council as well as the Agricultural Marketing Adviser have provided laboratory facilities for initial grading and test-check sampling respectively. This has been done with a view to ensure that the consignments for export are graded in accordance with the grade specifications on which they have contracted for with the foreign buyers.

(c) The value of exports during the last quinquennium has fluctuated between Rs. 2.46 and Rs. 8.50 crores for Black Pepper, Rs. 2.72 and Rs. 3.67 crores for Cardamoms, Rs. 0.44 Rs. 2.16 crores for Chillies and Rs. 15.16 and Rs. 18.91 crores for Cashew Kernels.

### Sugar Mills

**\*20.** { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:**  
**Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:**  
**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**  
**Shri Mantri:**  
**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad**  
**Shri Bhakt Darshan:**  
**Shri Yogendra Jha:**  
**Shri R. P. Singh:**  
**Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:**  
**Shri Raghunath Singh:**  
**Shri Heda:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the sugar mills are on the verge of closing down for want of sugarcane and coal;

(b) if so, how many such mills are facing this crisis; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to save these mills from such crisis?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) Yes, Sir, due to shortage of sugarcane.

(b) A majority of factories in North India are experiencing shortage of sugarcane.

(c) The factories can pay a higher cane price than the minimum to attract more supplies.

#### **Joint Steamer Companies**

\*21. { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
          **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 402 on the 22nd January, 1963 and state:

(a) whether a meeting of the representatives of the Government of India, Pakistan and employers and employees of the Joint Steamer Companies has since been held; and

(b) if so, what matters were discussed and decisions taken therein?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Wagon Workshop, Matunga**

\*22. { **Shri D. N. Tiwary:**  
          **Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
          **Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
          **Shri B. K. Das:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incident of fire breaking out on the 21st January,

1963 in the Carriage Wagon Workshop of Matunga (C.R.) resulting in a heavy loss of the railway property has been enquired into; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawas Khan):** (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Report of the Enquiry Committee is under examination.

#### **Wool Production**

\*23. **Shri Bishanchander Seth:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation made a survey in India about the wool production;

(b) if so, the main suggestions put forward by them in regard to wool production; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to make India self-sufficient in wool?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) The F.A.O. have not made any survey on wool in India. F.A.O. specialists assigned to Rajasthan, U.P. and Assam for advising on sheep and wool programmes have, however, submitted reports on wool production in these States.

(b) The main recommendations relate to the establishment of sheep farms, adoption of improved management practices, research in selective and cross breeding, improvement of pastures and better sharing and marketing.

(c) The State Governments have established 48 sheep farms and 305 extension centres upto the end of the Second Five Year Plan. These will be further strengthened in the Third Plan, 15 additional sheep farms and