

309 extension centres will be set up. The Government of India are establishing a Central Sheep Research Institute. In addition, several research schemes on wool have been sponsored. Sheep sharing and wool marketing programmes are being undertaken, to begin with, in Rajasthan.

University courses in Agriculture

*24. **Shri P. Venkatasubbalah:** Will Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to shorten the University courses in Agriculture to meet the needs arising out of National Emergency;

(b) whether Universities have been consulted in the matter; and

(c) if so, what are their reactions? be pleased to state:

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Tourist Industry

*25. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Heda:

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

(a) whether the tourist traffic and industry have been greatly hit due to the national emergency in India;

(b) if so, the extent thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Yes, to some extent. In November and December, 1962 there was a fall of about 7.1 per cent in tourist arrivals compared to the correspon-

ding figures for November and December, 1961.

(c) The steps to arrest the decline are under study.

Credit to Farmers through Co-operative Agencies

*26. **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have been advised by the Central Government to provide credit to agriculturists for production and land improvement works through co-operative agencies;

(b) what arrangements have been made to make available the funds routed through cooperatives at an interest rate not higher than the market rate; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to initiate some form of deposit insurance schemes to help cooperative banks augment their resources?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The state governments have been asked to ensure that cooperatives keep their lending rate as low as possible taking into account the extent of their owned funds, their borrowing rate, a reasonable margin for servicing the loans and the extent of Government subsidy received by them.

(c) The question whether and in what form deposits in cooperative banks should be protected is under consideration.

Reservation Rule

27. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of genuine hardship caused to passengers by the new rules regarding cancellation of railway reserved accommodation;