

Andaman Forest Department

*460. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hasda:

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

(a) whether the profit and loss accounts of the Andaman Forest (Timber) Department for the year 1956-57 have been prepared;

(b) if so, what they are;

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to see that in future no loss will recur;

(d) the number of railway sleepers which have been supplied up-to-date; and

(e) whether there is any seasoning machine installed for sleepers and other purposes?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 66].

(c) The steps taken are:—

Reduction in the labour force; greater use of settlers as labour and enforcing strict economy in the purchase and use of stores and maintenance of launches.

(d) 11,000 sleepers have been produced and are awaiting inspection and shipment.

(e) Yes, a battery of Seasoning Kilns with a total capacity of 36 tons has already been set up at Chatham.

Congestion in Indian Ports

*461. { Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Wodeyar:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India requested the British

Government to supply expert advice on measures to remedy congestion in Indian ports and that a team of British experts has arrived in India?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): Yes, Sir. The services of a team of Experts were made available by the U.K. Government under the Colombo Plan to visit the Major Ports of Calcutta, Bombay, Vizagapatam and Madras and advise on cargo-handling and other port operation problems. The team has completed its work and has submitted its reports.

Family Planning

*462. Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the final decision taken as to the propagation of family planning; and

(b) the steps taken so far to propagate family planning?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The Scheme of Family Planning has been included as a Centrally sponsored scheme in the Five Year Plan.

(b) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 67.]

Bongaigaon Workshop

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the workshop of Bongaigaon will be expanded for repairing coaches and wagons; and

(b) if so, the actual amount sanctioned for the expansion of the same?

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

(b) Does not arise.