

building was first built, then it had to be demolished, and then put up again?

Shri Humayun Kabir: It is true that in the original planning certain important sections had not been provided for. During construction, as soon as this was noticed, necessary measures were taken. This is only a post mortem consideration of something which happened several years ago.

Shri Morarka: Is it a fact that in the original plan there was no place for the customs counter at all?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I have already anticipated this question when I said that in the plans which were first made certain important sections had not been provided, of which customs was one. As soon as this was pointed out, necessary measures were taken to rectify the mistakes.

Shri Morarka: May I know the extra cost which the Government had to incur because of this lack of planning, and who has been held responsible for this mistake?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I don't think there has been any great extra expenditure. According to the original estimates, the building would have cost Rs. 50.30 lakhs and an additional extra expenditure of Rs. 12.58 lakhs for external services. As the building is now nearing completion, the total expenditure will be of the order of about Rs. 66 lakhs. Therefore, there has not been much increase in cost.

Suratgarh Farm

*64. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the acreage so far brought under cultivation in the 30,000 acre Central Mechanised Farm at Suratgarh?

The Minister of Cooperation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure 25].

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government have a target date for completion of the 30,000 acres?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is expected to be completed in 1958-59.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is a fact that the machinery which we have received for this particular project gets no protection and is left in the open?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Yes, Sheds have not been built and the machinery is kept in the open. If we had waited for the building of the sheds, the project would have been delayed by about two years.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I want to know whether Government took proper steps in time to see that the machinery which arrived were getting at least temporary protection, so that it could be used. I also want to know whether Government are aware of any possible loss on account of this exposure.

Shri A. P. Jain: I have personally visited the place recently. I saw all the machinery that is lying there. Every care is being taken to protect the machinery against dust storms. But I can say that it is not being kept in the sheds.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Hindustan Shipyard

*65. { **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:**
Shri M. Elias:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the amount spent by way of purchases made in foreign countries for Hindustan Shipyard in 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57; and

(b) the steps taken to see that only unavoidable purchases are made abroad?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 26].

Famine in Chini Tehsil (Himachal Pradesh)

*66. { Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Heda:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Vajpayee:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that famine in Chini Tehsil in Himachal Pradesh has become so acute that 75% of the population of that area have left their homes in search of food?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): No, Sir

Sambalpur-Titilagarh Railway Line

*67. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 71 on the 12th November, 1955, regarding the Sambalpur-Titilagarh Railway line and state:

(a) whether the work has been commenced; and

(b) if so, what is the progress?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The Engineering survey for Bolangir-Titilagarh portion of the Sambalpur-Titilagarh line has just been started.

Arkonam-Erode Railway Line

*68. Shri Doraiswami Gounder: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state when the work of laying of double line will be completed between Arkonam and Erode?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): In the Plan period only patch doubling is proposed. 40 miles of doubling have been sanctioned and another 50 miles approved in the 1958-59 Works Programme. These are expected to be completed within the Plan period.

Rice Production

*69. Shri Wodeyar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated acreage of land brought under rice cultivation anew during 1957; and

(b) the total demand of each State for the supply of rice from the Central Government?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):

(a) Crop statistics are generally collected and maintained according to agricultural year beginning from July and ending with June. According to the All-India First Estimate of Rice for the period July to September, 1957, the acreage under rice has been reported to be 68.01 million acres. The First Estimate, on the basis of past experience, indicates only about 90 per cent of the area finally reported under the crop. No information about new land brought under cultivation is available.

(b) Under conditions of decontrol, State Governments are not required to put in their annual demands for foodgrains. The present Government distribution is of the nature of price stabilization operations and foodgrains are distributed according to availability and relative urgency of the requirements of different areas.

Fruit Preservation in Andhra

*70. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has sent a scheme for fruit preservation for the Second Plan period;