

(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;