

the fact that according to wild life experts the musk deer is facing extinction in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent extinction of this animal?

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

(b) Musk deer is found in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have declared it as a protected animal. The other two States have been requested to take similar steps.

Catering on Railways

*269. Shri Muhammed Elias: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after taking over vending and catering business from contractors on Eastern and Central Railways, the Railway Administration is incurring a loss;

(b) if so, what was the loss incurred during the years 1957 and 1958; and

(c) the reasons for this loss?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c).

| Railway | 1957-58 | 1958-59 |
|---------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| | (Actuals) | (Revised Estimates) |
| | (Losses in thousands of Rupees.) | |
| Eastern | 6.70 | 5.23 |
| Central | 1.47 | 2.44 |

Note.—Figures have been given for financial years, as accounts are not maintained for calendar years.

The main reasons for losses in Departmental catering are:

(i) Expenditure incurred in payment of the prescribed scales of pay to the staff with the

service conditions applicable to Central Government Servants;

(ii) the sale of better quality of edibles; and

(iii) maintenance of better service.

Milk Powder Factory at Vijayawada

*272. { Shri Nagi Reddy:
Shri Ramam:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 595 on the 4th December, 1958 and state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken regarding establishment of a Milk Powder Factory at Vijayawada;

(b) whether there is going to be any collaboration with foreign capital; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have decided to establish the Milk Powder Factory at Vijayawada.

(b) and (c). The scheme submitted by the State Government is under examination of the Government of India with a view to exploring the possibility of obtaining aid from the UNICEF for it

Site for Third Thermal Power Station at D.V.C.

*276. Shri Subman Ghose: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dugda has been selected as the Third Thermal Power Station of Damodar Valley Corporation;

(b) if so, the capacity of the plant and the cost to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to construct a reservoir on the Damodar to ensure adequate

supply of water throughout the year and also to construct transmission lines from Dugda to Tala;

(d) if so, the cost to be incurred for each and the foreign exchange required;

(e) whether any other place was also considered for such selection; and

(f) if so, which place and the reasons for its not being selected?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): (a) It has been decided to locate the Third Thermal Plant at Chandrapura near Dugda Washery

(b) The capacity of the Thermal Power Station will be 125 MW and its cost is estimated to be Rs 11.25 crores.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise

(e) and (f) Many other sites especially Durgapur were considered. The Chandrapura site was selected after taking into account factors such as availability and proximity of low grade fuel, load expectancy etc, and the consideration that the Thermal Power Station will be able to utilise middlings from the Dugda Washery which is under construction

Target for Import of Fertilisers

*278 **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed for the import of fertilizers during 1959-60; and

(b) if so, the quantity to be imported and the amount of foreign exchange allotted for it?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b) The total demand of nitrogenous fertilisers during 1959-60 is 18.82 lakh tons and the internal production is estimated to be 5.88 lakh tons in terms of sulphate of ammonia. There is no

fixed target for import of nitrogenous fertilisers but efforts are being made to bridge the gap between the demand and supply as far as possible. The actual import will, however, depend on the amount of foreign exchange available for importing fertilisers. The foreign exchange allotted so far for import of fertilisers for the period commencing from October, 1958 to September, 1959 is Rs 13.31 crores which includes supplies to be arranged under T.C.A. Assistance Programme and under various Trade Agreements. Out of this amount, Rs 11.10 crores has been apportioned for utilisation on imports of fertilisers for meeting the requirements for the period April-September, 1959. Against this apportionment, import of fertilisers of 2.21 lakh tons in terms of sulphate of ammonia valued at Rs 6.02 crores has been arranged so far. Further supplies are being arranged.

The question of foreign exchange allocation for import of fertilisers required during October, 1959 to March, 1960 is under consideration.

Shikar and Travel Agents

*279. { Shri Birendra Bahadur Singhji;
Shri Wadiwa:

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

(a) whether the memorandum submitted by the recognised shikar agents relating to the difficulties experienced by them in organising shikar trips for foreign tourists has been examined,

(b) if so, the action taken thereon,

(c) whether the views of the State Governments on the Tourist Development Council's recommendation relating to convening of a conference of the representatives of the Central and State Governments concerned and shikar and travel agents, have been received, and

(d) if so, when such a conference is proposed to be called?