

Haldia-Kharagpur Line

- *505. { Shri Sadhan Gupta:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shrimati Renu Chakra-
vartty:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Transport and Communications has submitted any proposal for a Railway line to link Haldia with Kharagpur:

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal; and

(c) the attitude of the Ministry of Railways to the proposal?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The line is yet to be surveyed.

(c) This line is not included in the "Draft outline for the Third Plan" and the Planning Commission has been advised that additional allocation to the Railway Plan will be necessary if the line is to be constructed.

Family Planning

*506. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) what is the attitude of W.H.O. towards family planning; and

(b) whether W.H.O. is taking any steps in the matter and giving any assistance?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). As far as the Government of India are aware, W.H.O. is not yet associated with action in the field of family planning.

Locust Invasion

- { Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shrimati Renu Chakra-
vartty:
Shri Anirudh Sinha:
Shri Supakar:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Rami Reddy:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
*507. { Shri Assar:
Shri Goray:
Shri Viswanatha Reddy:
Shri Jinachandran:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Damani:
Shri Achar:
Shri P. R. Patel:
Dr. Samantsinhar:
Shri Subiman Ghose:
Shri N. M. Deb:
Shri Kodyan:
Shrimati Laxmi Bai:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 172 on the 5th August, 1960 and state:

(a) the extent of damage caused to foodgrain crops in the country by recent invasions of Locusts;

(b) the names of States affected; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such damage in future?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). The final estimates in regard to the damage caused by the locusts to foodgrain crops in the country are still awaited from the respective State Governments. The States affected by the locust swarms are Punjab, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujerat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Orissa.

(c) As already mentioned in the statement laid on the Table of the Sabha in reply to Starred Question No. 172 answered on 5th August, 1960, the entry of locust swarms into India cannot be prevented but suitable meas-

ures, as indicated in that statement, are taken to fight the locust after entry in India.

The locust swarms which appear in India have their origin in the countries in the west where locust breeding takes place during winter and spring. With a view to minimising their intensity, the Government of India are participating for the seventh year in succession during 1960-61, in an International anti-locust campaign organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in the Arabian Peninsula by deputing an Anti-Locust Mission of 21 persons to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Import of Diesel Locomotives

*508. **Shri Kunhan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1086 on the 5th September, 1960 and state:

(a) whether tenders received on the 24th August, 1960 for supply of 40 diesel locomotives have since been examined;

(b) if so, the lowest offer that has been received; and

(c) the name of the firm?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). The offers are still under examination.

Railway Wagons

*509. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shri Achar:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any scheme to expedite production of wagons;

(b) if so, what is the monthly target of wagon production under this scheme; and

(c) what is the number of wagons produced per month at present?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 2000 per month (in 4-wheelers), subject to adequate supply of steel in matching sets.

(c) About 800-900 per month (4-wheelers).

गन्ने का मूल्य

*५१०. श्री खुशबक्त राय : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्पादन-शुल्क में छूट के कारण गन्ना-उत्पादकों को अब गन्ने का अतिरिक्त मूल्य नहीं मिलेगा।

(ख) इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

खाद्य तथा कृषि उपमंत्री (श्री अ० म० बामस) : (क) जी हाँ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Coffee Plantation

*511. **Shri Achar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the growers of coffee are experiencing great difficulties in obtaining the required quantity of fertilizers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only 50 per cent. of the indents were supplied for the first two quarters out of the quantity allotted and even this was not delivered in time; and

(c) whether Government will take necessary steps to supply the required quantity in time to help production?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes. Due to shortage of foreign exchange the availability of nitrogenous fertilisers is not enough to meet in full the requirements of fertilisers for plantations including Coffee and Food Crops.