

Cinnamon Estate in Kerala

*449. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state.

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that a big Cinnamon Estate in Kerala, Anjarekandy is slowly being ruined; and

(b) if so, in view of the importance of the medicine, the steps Government intend to take in the matter?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) Development schemes for the cultivation of cinnamon have already been sanctioned in the States of Kerala, Mysore and Tripura Administration.

Rail-Road Transport Co-ordination

- *450. { **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Supakar:
Shri Liladhar Kotoki:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1119 on the 1st December, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the Committee on Transport and Co-ordination set up by the Planning Commission have examined problems relating to co-ordination between the different modes of transport, particularly rail and road transport and their future development;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) the nature of details of measures taken or proposed to be taken to secure greater co-ordination between the various means of transport?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The Committee on Transport Policy and Co-ordination submitted its preliminary report to the Planning Commission in February 1961. The report presents a detailed study of the following subjects:—

- (1) Development and Regulation of the Indian Railways.
- (2) The Role of Railways as a Public Enterprise.
- (3) Administrative Organisation of the Indian Railways.
- (4) Development & Regulation of Road Transport.
- (5) The Licensing Policies pertaining to Commercial Road Transport.
- (6) The existing State of Organisation of Road Transport Industry and its capacity to undertake Public Service Obligations.
- (7) Recent trends in the distribution of Traffic between Road Transport and Railways.
- (8) Recent trends in Railway Finances.
- (9) Inherent advantages of Road and Railway Transport and their comparative costs.
- (10) The more important methods of Co-ordination and their applicability in India.
- (11) Rail-Road Co-ordination in respect of Passenger Traffic.
- (12) The Requirements in regard to Future Development of Railways and Road Transport.

Based on these studies, the Committee has set out the main issues in the form of a Questionnaire to elicit comments from the general public and specialists in the field of transportation. The Committee has not made any specific recommendation in regard to co-ordination of transport or the

formulation of a National Transport Policy, except that it has recommended that Road Transport Corporations should be set up by the State Governments for the management of State Passenger Road Transport Undertakings. This is a reiteration of the policy already accepted by the Planning Commission.

Food Production

*451. **Shri Inder J. Malhotra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in the food production during the Second Five Year Plan period, calculated on the basis of average yield per acre;

(b) whether this increase, if any, was due to the supply and application of more fertilisers or due to the better seeds made available to the farmer; and

(c) whether the prices have also shown fall and rise in accordance with the rise and fall in the total food production during the Second Five Year Plan period?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

Production of foodgrains has generally shown an increase, though there have been fluctuations, from year to year. This increase is mostly due to supply and application of more fertilizers, use of better seeds, provision of more irrigation facilities and application of improved techniques of agricultural production.

(c) In 1957, the price index of Cereal Group showed some rise, but, thereafter fluctuations have been on the whole moderate.

Sunken Vessels in Hooghly

*452. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approximately nineteen sunken vessels are embedded in the Hooghly between Calcutta Port and the sea;

(b) whether this has affected the navigability of the channel; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remove the sunken vessels?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Such portions of the wrecks as were affecting the flow condition of the navigable channels had been removed and normal navigation has been maintained.

(c) It is neither economical nor practicable to remove the wrecks embedded in the river *in toto*. The Commissioners are considering the appointment of a salvage firm as their consultants on matters relating to salvage.

One of the wrecks, which has not been salvaged and is likely to interfere with the flow conditions of the navigable channel, is the Dredger "Lake Fithian", which sank off Fulda recently. This vessel belongs to the Amsterdamsche Ballast Co., a Dutch firm of dredging contractors, engaged for carrying out the Fulda Point River Training work. A Dutch salvage firm has been engaged by the Amsterdamsche Ballast Co. for removing the wreck. Work on the salvage of the Dredger "Lake Fithian" is expected to commence towards the close of April 1961.

Small Planes for Private Charter

*453. **Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Indian Airlines Corporation for making available to the public 4 to 8 seater planes for private charter in view of the pressing demand for small chartered planes; and