

- (2) To cultivate Sea-Island variety "Andrews" in an area of 3 lakh acres to produce about 2.25 lakh bales of staple cotton;
- (3) To improve the fibre strength and ginning percentage of "Andrews" by selection and make the cotton more remunerative and suitable for spinning 80's counts;
- (4) To conduct agronomic research to improve the yield and quality of "Andrews" in all the three States;
- (5) To arrange for ginning and marketing of the produce.

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** What is the amount in rupees does the foreign cotton that we are importing now come to? What is the value?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** We expect, by these schemes, to get bales of cotton worth about Rs. 30-38 crores so that we will be gaining foreign exchange to that extent.

**Shri Subbiah Ambalam:** May I know if there is any provision in this scheme to grant subsidy or grants to grow long staple cotton in India?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** According to this scheme, what is undertaken is, to survey areas suitable for cultivation of Sea Island cotton, to improve the fibre strength and ginning percentage of "Andrews", to conduct agronomic research to improve the yield, etc. There is no specific scheme to give subsidy.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** In fact, there is hardly any need for subsidy, because this variety of cotton will give a profit of about Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per acre to the farmer.

**Shri Mohamed Imam:** How many acres of long staple cotton are there in the State of Mysore?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** 1,18,000 acres.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** I find from the *Agricultural Situation in India* that the estimates for cotton are not made by Government but by firms like Volkart and Rally Brothers. I want to know whether the Government have any machinery to determine the exact requirements of long staple cotton and also other varieties of cotton.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** We have information regarding the requirements of long-staple cotton in our country.

**Sardar Iqbal Singh:** May I know whether any subsidy or grant has been given to the Punjab Government for research in cotton especially of more than 1" length?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The main question relates to Sea Island cotton. My friend's question does not relate to it.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** May I know what amount has been allocated to the State of Kerala for the experimentation, out of the total amount allotted to the State of Kerala for the experimentation, out of the total amount allotted for this purpose, and what is the machinery to utilise this amount for the experimentation?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Now, a sum of Rs. 1,24,000 has been allocated to be spent in 1957-58 in these three States, and the major portion of the amount will be spent in Kerala.

#### Kotah-Ajmer Rail Link

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:**

\*287. } **Shri H. C. Sharma:**  
 } **Shri Onkar Lal:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1087 on the 21st December, 1955 and state:

(a) whether the Traffic and Engineering Survey Reports in respect to Kotah-Ajmer Rail link have been received and considered by the Railway Board;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been included in the Second Five Year Plan of the Railways;

(c) if so, when the same is likely to be taken in hand;

(d) if not, when the Ajmer-Kotah Rail link is likely to be taken in hand, completed and declared open for traffic; and

(e) the priority allotted to this new line?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways: (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) Engineering Survey report has since been received. The traffic survey report is expected shortly.

(b) Owing to limited availability of resources this line has not been included in the Second Five Year Plan Period.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** May I know if it is the policy of the Government to give priority to under-developed areas?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** We have every sympathy with the under-developed areas, but our difficulty is the one of shortage of funds.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** What is the total mileage of this line and how many miles have been surveyed, both broad gauge and metre gauge?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** It was surveyed both for metre gauge and broad gauge. The length was 125.8 miles.

**Shri Kasliwal:** I have been in Rajasthan for the past ten years. The only rail link that has been constructed in Rajasthan is the Churu-Fatehpur line and after that, the present one is the Ajmer-Kotah link.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are you arguing out this point? What is the question?

**Shri Kasliwal:** The question is whether the Government will give an assurance to us that after the Churu-

Fatehpur link, the Kotah-Ajmer link will be the first to be taken up in Rajasthan?

**Mr. Speaker:** Nobody can ask for an assurance in the Question Hour.

#### Golden Rock Workshop Canteen Committee

\*288. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five members are nominated to the Workshop Canteen Committee in Golden Rock Southern Railway when the strength of the elected members are only five;

(b) whether it is the policy of the Administration to nominate equal number to such Committees;

(c) whether it is also a fact that one of the above nominated members is not employed in the workshop; and

(d) if so, the reasons for an outsider to be included in the Committee?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In canteens coming under the scope of the Factories Act, 1948, the administration is bound by the rules framed by State Governments under the Act.

(c) and (d). One of the nominated members is employed in the Workshop Accounts Branch and represents the Accounts Staff of the Time-Office. He is not an outsider.

**Shri Tangamani:** May I know if the Railway Board has issued circulars that for these canteens, only 2 members are to be nominated and if so, why 5 members were nominated in this particular case? Further, may I know whether an equal number of members were nominated at any time before this?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** As I have just now said, we are bound by the rules framed by the State Govern-