

(b) if so, what are they and what steps have been taken to step up their production; and

(c) whether the Ministry of Food has taken any steps to develop fisheries in deficit areas and induce people to take to it as an alternative to cereals?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain): (a) and (b) The requirements of cereals in the Union are being met by supplementing supplies through imports. Steps, however, are being taken for the development and increased production of protective foods such as fruits, vegetables, dairy and animal products etc., under the Second Five Year Plan so as to correct the unbalanced character of diet of the people. Various schemes have been drawn up for this purpose which are being implemented by the State Governments.

(c) The Central Government gives assistance for fishery development schemes in the shape of loans and grants. It is, however, for the State Governments to develop fisheries in their respective deficit areas and induce the people to take to fish as an alternative to cereals.

Rice for Kerala

*681. Shri Maniyangadan: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice supplied by the Central Government to the Kerala State during each month from January, 1957,

(b) the quantity of rice supplied during the corresponding period in 1956,

(c) whether the State Government has procured rice from any other State in India during this period and if so, the quantity thereof;

(d) whether any rice stored in the godowns at Cochin has been diverted by the Central Government to any other part of India after April, 1957; and

(e) whether any steps are being taken to increase the number of depots in Kerala for storing food-grains?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain): (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No 83]

(c) No, Sir

(d) A small quantity of American raw rice not required in Cochin is being sent out to other areas

(e) In addition to five depots that are functioning for a long time in Kerala, an additional Depot at Cannanore has been opened. The State Government are proposing to start sub-depots in each district.

Pakala-Dharmavaram Railway Track

*682. Shri Viswanatha Reddy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) when the re-laying of the track between Pakala and Dharmavaram in Southern Railway will be completed, and

(b) the original time schedule for the completion of this work, and the main factors which prevented the completion as per schedule?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The work of relaying of track between Pakala and Dharmavaram is expected to be completed in 1959.

(b) The work was scheduled to be carried out in three stages:

Stage I—60 miles—in 1953—55

Stage II—30 miles—in 1954—56

Stage III—51½ miles—in 1956—58.

Stage I has been completed. Only ballasting is being done now. Stage II is in hand and will be completed by October 1957. Stage III will then be taken in hand.

It has not been possible to adhere strictly to the schedule due to paucity of track materials.