

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think hon. Members perhaps do not realise that though this House is sovereign it ought not to interfere with the autonomy of the State Governments or other local bodies. Otherwise the whole administration will practically be at sixes and sevens. They must confine themselves only to broad questions of policy and the responsibility of the Government of India. They should not try to have a probe into the administration of the States.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Sir, on a point of information. If the State Government fails, what is the remedy?

Mr. Speaker: It is not for me to point that out here during the Question-hour. There are constitutional remedies which he may follow.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether this Government propose to enquire whether there are scarcity or famine conditions in that area?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

JAGADHRI LIGHT RAILWAY

*1364. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what agency is running the Jagadhri Light Railway?

(b) When does the term of the agreement of the agency expire?

(c) Do Government propose to take over the Railway?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The Jagadhri Light Railway Company, who owns the Railway.

(b) Under the order authorising the construction of this Railway the District Board of Ambala has the option to terminate the contract and purchase the line on 11th August 1962 or at intervals of 10 years thereafter.

(c) No.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know why this outmoded line is still being kept?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The question may be put to the District Board of Ambala.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know the number of Light Railways that are still under private management?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Sir, that is a different question and I would like to have notice.

DECREASE IN ACREAGE OF FOOD PRODUCTION

*1367. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether there is a decrease in acreage of food produce in the year 1952-53 according to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics?

(b) If so, how much is the decrease as compared to that in the year 1951-52?

(c) What States have shown this decrease and what are the causes?

(d) In which States were the conditions for the growth of food crop favourable?

(e) What was the condition in Madhya Pradesh?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 25.]

(d) and (e). Conditions for the growth of the crops were favourable in almost all the States, except in parts of Bombay, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Hyderabad, and Mysore where some crops, particularly millets, have been affected to some extent due to want of adequate and timely rains.

In Madhya Pradesh the condition of Kharif crops was not satisfactory due to want of rains in September to October, 1952 at the growing period and also due to the attack of rice-bugs in some parts of the State. Although the sowings of rabi crops were affected to some extent due to want of sufficient rains in October and November, the rains received from January have improved the condition of the standing rabi crops considerably.

CLAIMS COMMISSIONERS

*1369. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the functions of the Claims Commissioners appointed by the Ministry?

(b) What is the jurisdiction of each?

(c) What are the terms of their appointment and qualifications required?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The functions are to enquire into and