

(d) Yes. The reasons are that the import of lac to Mirzapur from lac-growing areas (i.e. Bihar and Madhya Pradesh) ceased consequent on the opening of shellac factories there as it was more economical to manufacture shellac in the lac growing areas.

(e) Thailand.

(f) The Indian Lac Cess Committee has been set up for the improvement and development of methods of cultivation, manufacture and marketing of Indian lac. The Committee has under it the Indian Lac Research Institute which is carrying on research on lac, both entomological and chemical, including physico-chemical, and which has found many uses for shellac.

INDIAN SHIPPING COMPANIES

*930. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the names of the Indian Shipping Companies engaged in the overseas trade of India?

(b) What is the tonnage owned by each?

(c) What percentage of import and export trade of India did they secure in the years 1951-52 and 1952-53?

(d) How many of them have their programmes of expansion ready?

(e) How much loan is proposed to be given to each of them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The required information is given below:

(1) Scindia Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., Bombay—2,05,620 GRT of which only 90,296 GRT are employed in the overseas trade.

(2) India Steamship Co. Ltd., Calcutta.—58,332 GRT.

(3) Eastern Shipping Corporation Ltd., Bombay.—14,433 GRT.

(c) The information is not available.

(d) So far as is known to Government, the Eastern Shipping Corporation Ltd. has finalised its plans for expansion.

(e) No application for loan has so far been received from any of the companies.

ALLOTMENT OF WAGONS FOR COTTON SEEDS AT BHILWARA

*931. **Shri U. M. Trivedi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton seeds is a non-preferential item for booking from

stations on the Western Railway particularly from Bhilwara; and

(b) whether local merchants of Bhilwara have received no allotment of wagons for cotton seeds movement for the last one month?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) On the Western Railway traffic in cotton seeds falls in the category of non-preferential traffic.

(b) It is not a fact that local merchants of Bhilwara have received no allotment of wagons for movement of cotton seeds for the last one month.

LAND UNDER PULSES CULTIVATION

633. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of acres of land in each State in which each kind of cereals was grown during the years 1950, 1951 and 1952; and

(b) the number of acres of land in each State in which each kind of pulses was grown during the years 1950, 1951 and 1952?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 37].

BANSWARA-RATLAM RAILWAY LINE

634. **Shri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct a railway line to connect Banswara with Ratlam or Dohad or Udaigarh; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above is in the negative, whether Government propose to take any of these lines under the Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). No.

RE-MODELLING OF SONEPUR RAILWAY STATION

635. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts sanctioned for re-modelling of Sonapur (N. E.) Railway Station; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the work of covering Sonapur Station platform has not begun as yet?