

to look into the affairs of the Kulu Valley Transport Company has completed its investigations?

(b) If so, what are its conclusions and recommendations?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement giving a summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 24.]

COTTON

***806. Shri Ram Dhani Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether there has been decline in cotton acreage and yield during the year 1953?

(b) If so, what are the reasons?

(c) What steps if any, are being taken by Government in this matter?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes. The 1952-53 crop shows a decline of 3.2 per cent. in area and 2.6 per cent. in production compared to 1951-52.

(b) Mostly unfavourable weather conditions.

(c) The following measures are being taken in the various States for increasing the acreage and production of cotton during 1953-54:—

(i) Extensive cultivation measures including reclamation of fallow and waste land.

(ii) Intensive cultivation measures such as (1) distribution of improved seeds, fertilisers etc., (2) plant protection measures, (3) provision of irrigation facilities, (4) improved methods of cultivation and (5) propaganda and publicity.

GOODS TRAFFIC ON ASSAM LINK

***807. Shri K. P. Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is the number of wagons daily passing each way on the Assam Link?

(b) How many of these are meant for North Bengal, and how many for Assam?

(c) What are the causes of bottle-neck on this route?

(d) What steps, if any, are proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The average per day during the four months, April to July 1953 was 128 in the direction from Siliguri to Alipur Duar and 118 in the reverse direction. Of these 96 and 72 respectively were for Assam and rest for North Bengal.

(c) and (d). The capacity of the siliguri-Alipur Duar Section is temporarily reduced on account of the speed restrictions which had to be imposed in consequence of the extensive repairs to bridges damaged during the floods of 1952. The line capacity is being progressively improved by providing additional crossing stations, additional loops at stations increasing the lengths of loops, easing the gradients, improvements in standards of signalling and interlocking, etc. The through-put on the link, however, is dependent to a considerable extent on the transshipment capacity of the Ghats, which bottle-neck will disappear with the construction of bridge across the Ganga near Mokameh.

GODOWNS

***808. Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the draft design of Standard Godowns for foodgrains storage has been prepared and approved by the Government of India?

(b) What would be the cost of construction of such a godown?

(c) How many of them will be required for our country?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, it is a fact that designs for standard types of bulk and bag storage godowns for foodgrains have been prepared by the Government of India.