

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 75.]

(b) and (c). The main item in the Board's immediate programme is to carry out a Pilot Project for navigating the Upper Ganga and Ghogra with shallow draft tugs and barges. At its last meeting held on the 26th October 1953, the Board approved of certain preliminary arrangements necessary for starting the project.

(d) Rs. 3,372-7-0.

रेल के इंजन

*१०३८. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) भारत में कितने समय तक रेल के इंजनों के बारे में आत्म निर्भरता प्राप्त होगी; तथा

(ख) आत्म निर्भरता प्राप्त करने के लिये कितने इंजन आयात किये जायेंगे और कितनों का देश में निर्माण होगा।

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). It is expected that self-sufficiency, as far as normal replacement requirement of locomotives is concerned, will be attained by about 1957-58. Every effort is being made to set up indigenous production as early as possible, but to provide the additional locomotives that will be required to move the increases in traffic, some imports may be necessary for a few years. However, the position will be reviewed periodically.

ERGOT

*1039. **Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the Districts where Ergot is grown in India?

(b) What was the total annual production in 1952-53?

(c) What is the total annual quantity of Ergot required in India?

(d) How does the Indian Ergot compare with imported Ergot in alkaloidal content?

(e) What are the main reasons for not growing at least the quantity required in India?

(f) Is any tariff protection needed and if so, to what extent?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Nilgiri Hills (Madras).

(b) About 2,000 lbs.

(c) About 40,000 lbs.

(d) Alkaloid content of ergot produced in Madras is higher than that of the imported ergot.

(e) The I.C.A.R. took up the question of increasing ergot production with Madras Government but they are unable to do so owing to financial stringency. The I.C.A.R. has recently sanctioned a scheme for production of ergot in Assam and another scheme in West Bengal is under consideration.

(f) Not presently.

गोसदन

*१०४०. श्री वी० जी० देशपांडे : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) गोसदन योजना पर अब तक केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कितनी धन राशि खर्च की है; तथा

(ख) अब तक कितने पशु दाखिल किये गये हैं ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The amount spent during 1952-53 the first year of the Scheme, was Rs. 1,35,450. The figures for the current year are not yet available.

(b) 980.