

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Is Government aware of the fact that purchase of long staple cotton produced in Hissar and Rohtak district was suspended by buyers. If so, what were the reasons?

Shri Kidwai: I am not aware of this.

Shri Beli Ram Das: What steps, if any, has been taken by Government to introduce long staple cotton seeds in the state of Assam, particularly in Gharo hill districts where cotton is grown in abundance?

Shri Kidwai: The figures of acreage that I have given do not include Assam. Perhaps Assam climate is not suitable for the cultivation of cotton. I will enquire into it.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the hon. Minister aware of the complaints of growers of long staple cotton that they are not getting proper prices?

Shri Kidwai: That is always the complaint of the producer.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know the varieties of cotton that are included in the list of long staple cotton?

Shri Kidwai: I have not yet become a cotton expert.

Kharif CROPS

*348. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the position regarding kharif food crops in 1951-52 as reported by various State Governments?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A statement giving available information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 29.]

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The statement gives reports from fourteen States, four out of which mention damage due to floods as well as drought. May I know if there has been any calculation to find out what is the loss on account of floods and what is the loss on account of drought?

Shri Kidwai: I will be able to supply the details if the hon. Member gives notice.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I suggest, Sir, that along with question No. 349, question No. 351 which relates to the same subject may also be taken?

Mr. Speaker: Will it be convenient for the hon. Minister to answer both together?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Yes, Sir.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE FACTORY

*349. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plant at Chittaranjan has gone into actual production; and

(b) if not, when it is anticipated to commence production?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE FACTORY

*351. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the production target of the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works has been maintained according to schedule and if not, why not?

(b) What steps are being taken to expedite the manufacture of locomotive parts at Chittaranjan?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) No, mainly because of the delayed delivery of certain components from Locomotive Manufacturing Co., England with whom there is a Technical Aid Agreement.

(b) There is a carefully prepared plan by which the number and range of components manufactured at Chittaranjan are increased each year. At present 70 per cent. of the parts are being manufactured and it is expected by 1954 the target of 100 per cent. manufacture will have been achieved.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know the capacity of the plants at present?

Shri L. B. Shastri: At Chittaranjan it is expected that the full single shift production target will be 120 complete locomotives plus 50 spare boilers.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know the terms of the five year agreement entered into with the U.K. manufacturing concern and whether the measure of help rendered by them has been in accordance with the terms stipulated in that agreement?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Under the Technical Aid Agreement signed with the Locomotive Manufacturing Company of the United Kingdom they were required to supply a certain percentage of components from year to year. But they have not been able to keep up to