

(b) In what States is it produced and what is the approximate acreage under cultivation at present?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Tapioca contains about 38.7 per cent. Carbohydrates, 0.7 per cent. protein, 0.2 per cent. fat, 1 per cent. minerals, and moisture 59.4 per cent. Its calorific value per ounce is 45 and it is deficient in vitamins.

It is mainly used as a supplementary food in Travancore and the Malabar district of Madras.

(b) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table [See Appendix II, annexure No. 30.]

TELEGRAPH STATIONS FOR SUB-DISTRICT OF SAHARSA

*354. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar and some public organisations of Bihar had requested the Government of India for opening of telegraph stations at Garpatgani, Pratabganj and Basarpatty in the sub-district of Saharsa?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of Bihar had also undertaken to meet the deficit, if any, in running the aforesaid Telegraph Offices?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of India also accepted the proposal and sanctioned their opening?

(d) If so, do Government propose to state the reasons why those telegraph offices have not so far been opened?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) to (c). Yes.

(d) Due to shortage of funds and stores the works could not be completed. It is expected that the offices will be opened in about four months.

POST OFFICES IN ORISSA

*359. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices of all nomenclatures in each district of the State of Orissa;

(b) whether all the Post Offices are located in Government buildings; and

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(c) if any Post Offices are located in the private buildings, the annual rent paid therefor?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 31.]

(b) No.

(c) The total annual rent paid for post offices in Orissa located in rented buildings is Rs. 34,607/3/-.

KHOWANG-NUMALIGARH NATIONAL HIGHWAY

*360. **Shri Beli Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what proportion of National Highways falls within the State of Assam?

(b) Are Government aware that the portion of the National Highway within the State of Assam from Khowang to Numaligarh, about 100 miles, has been damaged by the last great earthquake and that no steps have been taken to repair this portion of this road?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) About six per cent.

(b) So far as I am aware, this section was not damaged by the great earthquake of 1950; and there is no indication that it is not being adequately maintained.

SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT

*361. **Shri N. C. Chatterjee:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred per year from the year 1947 on the Special Police Establishment of the Government of India; and

(b) the total fines realised in cases which were investigated into by the said Establishment?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 32.]

डाक घर

*३६२. श्री आर० एस० तिवारी :
क्या संचरण मंत्री उन बड़े और छोटे नये डाकघरों की संख्या बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे, जो पिछले वर्ष सारे भारत में खोले गये ?

POST OFFICES

[*362. **Shri R. S. Tiwari:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of new post-offices, big and small, opened throughout India during the last year?]

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagdhan Rana): Sub Offices 97 Branch Offices 5,192.

BOBBILI-SALUR RAILWAY

*363. **Shri Ramaseshaiah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) when the construction of Bobbili-Salur Railway line will be taken up; and

(b) whether it is proposed to provide any amount for this scheme in the Budget for 1952-53?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) During 1952-53.

(b) Yes; a sum of Rs. 1 lakh has been provided for preliminary arrangements.

PURCHASE OF FERTILIZERS

*364. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) when will Government be in a position to place on the Table a report of the investigation regarding the purchase of Fertilisers on Government account;

(b) the action so far taken against those found responsible for the irregularities committed in connection with the purchase; and

(c) why there was such delay in the conduct of these investigations?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Police investigations in the case are still proceeding, and any premature publication of the materials is likely to prejudice the investigations. It is not possible therefore, to say when Government will be in a position to make a statement on the subject.

(b) One officer has already been dismissed from Government service after due departmental inquiry. Further investigations have been ordered against him and others connected with the purchase.

(c) There has not been any avoidable delay in this matter. Government was awaiting the Report of the Rajadhyaksha Committee and have ordered further Police investigations based on this Report.

PURCHASE OF TRACTORS

*365. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consignment of tractors was recently ordered for by the Government of India through an Indian firm;

(b) which was the firm,

(c) whether the tractors were found suitable for our country's conditions and if not, how much loss was incurred;

(d) whether a report has been submitted to Government regarding this transaction and if so, what are the recommendations; and

(e) what action has been taken on the recommendations?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). The Government of India have not placed orders for any consignment of tractors recently. However, since 1949, the following tractors have been procured in connection with the Land Reclamation Scheme:—

90 nos. of Allis-Chalmers tractors Model HD-19 from Pashabhai Patel and Co., Ltd.

90 nos. of Oliver Cletrac tractors Model FDE from William Jacks and Co., Ltd.

30 nos. of Caterpillar tractors Model D-8 from Tractor and Equipment Corp., Ltd.

30 nos. of International Harvester tractors Model TD-24 from Volkart Brothers.

(c) Every make of tractor has some special features which are found useful and some features which are disadvantageous. But, taking all relevant factors into account, all the tractors have been found suitable for our country's conditions.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

भारत ग राज्यों के लिये ट्रैक्टर

*३६६. श्री आर० एस० तिबारी :
क्या जाह्न तया कृषि मंत्री यह बतानेकी
कृपा करेंगे :