

## 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 साख तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बतानेकी  
कृपा करेंगे :

(क) भूमि के सुधार के हेतु तकावी के आधार पर उपयोग के लिये, सरकार द्वारा भाग 'ग' राज्यों को (प्रति राज्य) अब तक कितने ट्रैक्टर मांगे दिये गये हैं, और

(ख) अब तक इन ट्रैक्टरों द्वारा कितनी भूमि का (प्रति राज्य) सुधार किया गया है ?

#### TRACTORS TO PART 'C' STATES

[\*366. Shri R. S. Tiwari: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many tractors have been given so far by Government to Part 'C' States (Statewise) on loan, for use on the *Taccavi* basis, for reclaiming land; and

(b) how much land has been reclaimed (Statewise) by these tractors so far?]

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Central Government does not issue or loan tractors to the States. It gives grants and loans of money to enable them to give *taccavi* to cultivators for purchasing tractors or for setting up State run tractor units. The loans given for financing the grant of *taccavi* are:

Ajmer	Rs.	90,000
Bhopal	Rs.	9,00,000
Vindhya Pradesh	Rs.	2,50,000

(b) The information is not readily available. It will be placed on the Table of the House when available.

#### PRODUCTION OF SUGAR CANE

\*367. Prof. Agarwal: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total area in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh which has been diverted from the production of foodgrains to sugarcane as a result of Government's policy regarding the sale of free sugar?

(b) What steps are Government now taking to ensure that sugarcane is not grown beyond the minimum national requirements?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Sugarcane acreages in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which are the main sugar producing States were 24 lakhs 95 thousand and 4 lakhs 11 thousand

acres respectively in 1950-51 against the estimated figures of 26 lakhs 90 thousand and 3 lakhs 54 thousand acres in 1951-52. The increase in Uttar Pradesh represents the limit of the diversion from foodgrains to sugarcane but it was due not so much to the prices paid to the cultivators for sugarcane for free market sugar as to the high prices obtainable by cultivators for *gur*.

(b) It is not possible to plan exactly that the production in a particular year should not exceed the requirements of that year, for while the acreage can be regulated, the yield depends on weather conditions and cannot be predicted a year in advance. *Gur* prices fell this season and that will bring about adjustment, and it is also my intention to reconsider the sugarcane prices for the next season so as to prevent maladjustment as much as possible.

#### PAKISTAN SPIES

\*368. Shri Dhusiya: (a) Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what is the number of Pakistan spies who have so far been detected and detained in West-Bengal, Assam, Bihar and U.P. respectively?

(b) How many of them are men and how many women?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). It will not be in the public interest to answer this question.

#### IMPORT OF LOCOMOTIVES FROM GERMANY

\*369. Shri Vittal Rao: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many locomotive engines have been received from West German firm, Krans Haffel so far out of the order placed for 135 Locomotive engines during 1951?

(b) What is the cost of each engine?

(c) Does the same compare favourably with the cost of Locomotives ordered from other foreign countries?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons that weighed with the Government to place the order?

(e) Do Government propose to lay a copy of the agreement on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) 10 'YP' Locomotives.