

(ग) पर्यटकों को क्या सुविधाएँ दी जाती हैं और देश के विभिन्न भागों में स्थित पर्यटक कार्यालयों के ऊपर कितना व्यय होता है ?

(घ) क्या पर्यटकों को ले जाने के लिये भारत में सरकार के पास विशेष बसें हैं ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) 1951 about 20,000 tourists. First four months of 1952...7,235 tourists.

(b) Attention is invited to the reply to starred question No. 144 given on 20th February 1952.

(c) The facilities provided by the Government include tourist information offices, tourist literature and guide services. For the overseas visitors frontier formalities have been simplified and a Tourist Introduction Card which is issued to them ensures special assistance in respect of quick customs clearance, railway reservation and accommodation in dak bungalows.

The expenditure incurred on the Regional Tourist Offices in 1950-51 and 1951-52 is Rs. 1,04,985 and Rs. 1,25,200 respectively.

(d) No.

RANAGHAT-LALGOLAGHAT RAILWAY LINE

*1482. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for extending the Ranaghat-Lalgolaghat Branch line of the Sealdah Division of the Eastern Railways beyond Lalgola upto Jangipore in the district of Murshidabad, West Bengal connecting Jangipore directly by rail with Calcutta;

(b) when the said scheme is likely to be taken in hand; and

(c) whether Government have received any representation on the subject from the local people of Jangipore?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) No such scheme is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

PAPER MILLS

*1485. **Shri Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware, or their attention has been

drawn to the accumulation of stocks and reduction in the output of some of the paper mills engaged in the manufacture of special varieties of papers and boards due to the non-availability of wagons for the movement of such papers and boards?

(b) What steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by the Railways to make available to the mills concerned their minimum requirements of wagons, so that production can at least go on unhampered?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes. Representations in this regard have recently been received from Messrs. Rohtas Industries Ltd., Dalmanagar, and also on their behalf from the Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Indian Paper Mills Association, Calcutta.

(b) Being the finished products of the paper factory, their paper and boards constitute 'preferential traffic' under item 9(v) of the Railway Board's General Order No. 7, dated 16th June 1952 which covers finished products of certain industries including the Paper and Straw Board factories. The requirements given by Messrs. Rohtas Industries Ltd. are for *via* Waltair to the South and *via* Balharshah to Secunderabad (for Mushirabad out agency) the movements for which are subject to limited capacities, shared by the various types of essential traffic. The feasibility of accommodating their traffic to a greater measure than at present is under consideration.

PRODUCTION OF COTTON IN MADHYA PRADESH

*1488. **Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land were under cotton cultivation in Madhya Pradesh in 1951-52 season;

(b) the quantity of cotton that was produced in the same year; and

(c) the varieties of long staple cotton that are produced in Madhya Pradesh?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 1951-52, Final Estimates of Cotton are not yet available. According to the fourth estimate, the area under cotton in Madhya Pradesh in 1951-52 was 3,021 thousand acres.

(b) The quantity produced according to the Fourth Estimate is 691 thousand bales of 392 lbs. each of cotton lint.