

(d) No rice was supplied to Travancore-Cochin from U. P. during 1951-52 season. Supplies from Madhya Pradesh are being made from March, 1952 for which the Madhya Pradesh Government will charge the F.O.R. price of Rs. 15/14/3 to Rs. 16/1/6 for Coarse I variety and Rs. 15/2/3 to Rs. 15/5/6 for Coarse II variety.

ALLOTMENT OF FOODGRAINS IN STATES

***148. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the basis on which foodgrains are allotted to the various States?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Allocations under the Basic Plan are made on the basis of relative needs of States for meeting Government distribution responsibilities and the available supply in the Central Pool. The relative needs are determined after taking into account the estimated production, likely procurement, current stocks with the State Government and estimated offtakes.

GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, JHANSI

***149. Shri Dhulekar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take over fully the management of the Government Technical Institute, Jhansi, attached to the Railway Workshops, Jhansi, from the hands of the Uttar Pradesh Government;

(b) whether Government also propose to develop and enlarge the said Institute; and

(c) if so, the manner in which this is proposed to be done?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The Government Technical School at Jhansi is not attached to the Railway Workshops, Jhansi, but is owned, financed and run by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Government of India has at present no intention of taking it over.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

AGRICULTURAL AIRCRAFT

***150. Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the new Agricultural Aircraft recently built for aerial application of agricultural chemicals?

(b) Is any attempt being made to manufacture the same in India to help the food production?

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The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) I am not aware of any special agricultural aircraft recently built for aerial application of agricultural chemicals. My information is that some of the usual types of aeroplanes are used for anti-pest spraying and for sowing in countries like the U.S.A.

(b) Does not arise.

FOREIGN PLANTATIONS

***151. Shri Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of plantations belonging to foreigners in India;

(b) the total acreage and value of these plantations; and

(c) the number of labourers employed?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). The information is not readily available. It will be laid on the Table when collected. The hon. Member is referred to "Census of India's foreign Liabilities and Assets" published by the Reserve Bank of India for valuation of coffee and tea plantations.

FOOD SUBSIDY

***152. Shri Heda:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state if the State Governments have protested against the Central Government's decision to stop the food subsidies?

(b) What are those States that have supported the step?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). The position regarding subsidy was explained to the State Government representatives who attended the Food Minister's Conference held in February 1952 and the consensus of opinion was that there was no help against the withdrawal of subsidy. The question of protest against or support for the Government of India's decision therefore does not arise.

BHAGALPUR MANDAR HILL BRANCH LINE SERVICE

***153. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any progress has been made towards resuming the Bhagalpur Mandar Hill Branch Line service in Bihar?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The restoration of Bhagalpur Mandar Hill

Branch has been included in the Works Programme for 1952-53 and a sum of Rs. 1 lakh has been allotted for making preliminary arrangements to start the work.

TELEPHONE COMPLAINTS

16. Shri Hukam Singh: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints regarding wrong numbers were recorded with the Local Complaints in Delhi during three months 1st January, 1952 to 31st March, 1952; and

(b) whether any rebate and if so, what amount was paid for such calls after verification?

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

(b) No rebate in cash is given for such calls. All complaints are verified immediately by testing and credit tickets are prepared by the Engineer-in-Charge where the complaints are proved to be justified.

CREOSOTING PLANTS

17. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of setting up Creosoting plants on a regional basis to give preservative treatment to wooden sleepers has been brought in operation; and

(b) if so, how many plants have been installed and the places where these plants have been put in operation giving the estimated expenditure in each case and actual amount spent so far?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The scheme has not yet been brought into operation, but is in the course of being implemented.

(b) Two new creosoting plants will be installed, one at Clutterbuckganj near Bareilly and the other at Coimbatore North. The estimated cost of the plant at Clutterbuckganj is Rs. 41.14 lakhs and the amount spent so far is Rs. 5 lakhs. The estimated cost of the plant at Coimbatore is Rs. 14 lakhs and the amount spent so far is Rs. 53,000.

"GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

18. Shri Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the total additional quantity of foodgrains which will be produced under the "Grow More Food" Campaign during the

period of next five years and what is its percentage to the total production of foodgrains?

(b) What is the total expense the Government of India propose to incur on "Grow More Food" Campaign during this period of five years?

(c) What will be the annual additional production of foodgrains under the "Grow More Food" Campaign during the period of the next five years and what is the annual expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Government of India during the next five years on this scheme?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Under the draft Five Year Plan it is proposed to achieve additional production of foodgrains to the extent of 7.2 million tons, of which 2.3 million tons are expected to result from major irrigation schemes. The additional food production suggested in the Plan amounts to about 16 per cent. of the total production.

(b) According to the Draft Five Year Plan, the Central Government expenditure on Grow More Food is estimated at about Rs. 90 crores.

(c) The additional production and expenditure under the Grow More Food Campaign are, broadly speaking, evenly spread over the period of the Plan.

AIR ACCIDENTS

19. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many air accidents took place in each of the years from 1947-48 up-to-date;

(b) in how many cases enquiry committees were formed and in how many cases departmental enquiries were made;

(c) how many employees were discharged as a result of the enquiries; and

(d) what steps have been taken to avert further accidents?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) The number of accidents involving serious injury to crew or passengers or damage to aircraft was 63 in 1947, 47 in 1948, 32 in 1949, 62 in 1950, 38 in 1951 and 17, up-to-date, in 1952.

I lay on the Table a statement showing the breakdown of these numbers according to different categories of aircraft. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 40.]