

(b) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred on setting up such a Centre; and

(c) when this Centre is likely to be set up?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) to (c). A proposal has been received to this effect. The matter is still under consideration.

Long Staple Cotton

*1618. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes for the production of long staple cotton in India are under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the main features of the schemes;

(c) whether any committee has been appointed for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the main recommendations thereof?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The Government has no such schemes under consideration. The Indian Central Cotton Committee has some schemes for the production of long staple cotton.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Drought Conditions in Coastal States

*1619. **Shri Sanganna :** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Meteorological Department of the Government of India has made any special report on the causes of successive failure of monsoons in Orissa and other coastal States resulting in acute drought conditions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). An examination of the actual rainfall in Orissa and other coastal States in the recent past does not reveal any successive failure of monsoons and large deficiency in the rainfall. Only in isolated areas of Orissa the rainfall has been below 70 per cent of the normal. Such a feature of deficiency in isolated areas in a season of generally normal or poor monsoon is a natural characteristics of rainfall variation in space.

Ghagra Bridge

*1621. **Shri Sinhasan Singh :** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred

question No. 1620 on the 23rd December, 1954 and state :

(a) the progress of the construction of a boat or pontoon bridge on the River Ghagra at Doharighat ;

(b) whether the estimates for pucca bridges at Doharighat on the Ghagra River and at Bird Ghat on the Rapti River (Gorakhpur) have been received and sanctioned ; and

(c) if so, the estimated cost thereof ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) It has since been decided not to construct a pontoon bridge, of a temporary nature, at a cost of about Rs. 8.5 lakhs but to go in for a pucca bridge as early as possible.

(b) The sites for both the bridges have been selected. A preliminary estimate for the bridge over the Ghagra has been received recently from the State Public Works Department and is under scrutiny. A preliminary estimate for the bridge over the Rapti is awaited from the State Government.

(c) The Ghagra and Rapti bridges are roughly estimated to cost Rs. 91 lakhs and 36 lakhs respectively.

Railway Lines

*1626. **Shri Bhagabat Sahu :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) the actual total mileage of Railway lines constructed so far during the First Five Year Plan period ; and

(b) the names of the Railway lines constructed in the South Eastern Zone during the above period ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 782 Miles approximately including restoration of dismantled lines.

(b) Bobbili-Salur.

मजदूरी भुगतान ऐक्ट, १९३६

*१६३१. **श्री बाघमारे :** क्या अन्वय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कलकत्ता बंदरगाह के चिपिंग, रंगाई, भराई व सिलाई के काम में लगे हुये मजदूरों और डैरिक फिटर, मार्कमैन तथा सफाई के गैंगमनों को ठेकेदारों द्वारा मजदूरी भुगतान ऐक्ट, १९३६ के अनुसार मजदूरी नहीं दी जाती है; और