

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) About 881 tons.

(b) No. Only 10 tons was unfit for any use. The balance of the quantity written off represented short landings from ships and losses in transit from the docks to the Central Government godowns.

TELEGRAPH OFFICE FOR RAKHABDEO

495. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no Telegraph Office at Rakhabdeo, a place of pilgrimage in Rajasthan; and

(b) when Government propose to open a telegraph office there?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No. A telegraph office was opened at Rakhabdeo on the 3rd July, 1951, and it is working satisfactorily.

(b) Does not arise.

TOURISTS

496. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) what expenses are annually incurred for maintaining tourist offices at Udaipur and Jaipur; and

(b) what facilities are provided and what are proposed to be extended in the near future to attract more tourist traffic?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The Government of India do not maintain any tourist offices at Jaipur and Udaipur. An officer of the Government of Rajasthan at Jaipur is acting as the Honorary Regional Tourist Officer of the Government of India, but no expenditure is being incurred on this account by the latter.

(b) The facilities provided by the Government include tourist information offices at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, tourist literature and guide services. In eight other States, certain officers of the State Government act as our Honorary Tourist Officers. In addition it is proposed to open small tourist information offices at Banaras and Agra. 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.

CARDAMOM PLANTS

497. Shri K. S. Gounder: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether two Experimental Research Stations were started in South India in 1944 to study the possibility of producing resistant types of Cardamom plants and the effects of insecticides on thrips and other Cardamom-pests;

(b) what are the results and progress of study made so far in the Stations; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend the research scheme to some more years to produce useful results?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes.

(b) Entomological investigations are over, control measures against cardamom thrips have been worked out and brought to the notice of planters. Breeding and Agronomic work is in progress.

(c) The present scheme is due to terminate on 31st March, 1954.

EX-ARMY PERSONNEL

498. Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of civil suits by Ex-Army personnel filed in respect of their emoluments and wrong discharge against the state since 15th August, 1947; and

(b) the total number of suits referred to in part (a) above decreed by the first court in favour of the Plaintiffs?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

VISIT OF A PROFESSOR FROM COLUMBIA

499. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether a professor from Columbia, U.S.A., is presently on a tour of India;

(b) what is his programme, and what its purpose; and

(c) whether his programme has been drawn up in consultation with the Government of India?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) to (c). I am