

Exploitation of Forests in Himachal Pradesh

103. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan for the exploitation of forests in Himachal Pradesh during the Third Five Year Plan period has been prepared;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the total estimated expenditure involved and the estimated income from the scheme?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) This scheme envisages extraction of timber from forests by mechanical means, conversion into sleepers and pulpwood, construction of logging roads and artificial regeneration of conifers.

(c) 60 lakhs has been provided for this scheme during Third Plan period. Its operation is expected to result in an additional revenue of Rs. 11 lakhs during the Third Plan period and Rs. 12.5 lakhs annually after 1965-66.

Farm Output in Punjab

104. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any short-term loan has been given to the Government of Punjab during 1960-61 for increasing farm output; and

(b) if so, the nature and amount of the loan?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes.

(b) Short term loan of Rs. 103.26 lakhs was sanctioned by the Central Government to the Government of Punjab during 1960-61 for the pur-

chase and distribution of fertilisers and seeds for increasing production of food crops. The loan is repayable within 18 months from the date of drawal and interest is charged at 3½ per cent per annum for the period of 18 months or for the actual period for which the loan is retained by the State Government.

Robberies on Railways

105. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of robberies committed on each Railway during the year 1962 up-to-date and the loss thus sustained in each case; and

(b) the steps that are being taken to prevent such incidents?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

Night Work Allowance for Dock Workers

**106. { Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Mohammad Elias;
Shri Yallamanda Reddy:**

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached with the All India Port and Dock Workers' Federation regarding special allowances for night work:

(b) if so, the agreed basis of the night co-efficients; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what is preventing an agreement being reached?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The question of granting weight-age to port employees for night work was fully discussed by Government