

a number of industries at Ballabgarh on the Mathura-Tughlakabad Section;

(b) if so, in what way this will help the industries;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some industrialists have approached authorities for additional siding facilities at Ballabgarh; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to help them?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) Yes.

(b) This will help the industries to handle their traffic expeditiously as it will facilitate placement and removal of wagons for the industries without detention and without affecting the through movements.

(c) Yes.

(d) Necessary siding facilities are being provided depending on the merits of each case.

#### **Railway line from Badbil to Paradip Port**

**984. Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey is being undertaken for the construction of a Railway line from Badbil to Paradip Port; and

(b) whether his Ministry has tentatively agreed for the construction of such a line to be included in the fourth Five Year Plan?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):**

(a) No, Sir. But proposals for carrying out only Preliminary Engineering and Traffic Surveys for a rail line to connect Tomka/Daiteri areas and Nayagarh area to Paradip Port are being included in the 1963-64 Budget.

(b) Depending on the prospects of export of iron ore from the Nayagarh area through Paradip Port a rail line

from Nayagarh to Paradip may be found necessary. No decision has yet been taken to the inclusion of this line in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

#### **Liveries for Postmen and Packers in Hilly Areas**

**985. Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that postmen and packers in the Hilly Areas of the Punjab have not been provided with overcoats, socks, warm liveries and rain coats though these are overdue;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the cloth of the summer liveries is of a very poor quality and does not last long and the umbrellas which they have been given is a stuff of very poor quality; and

(c) if so, when Government propose to provide them the articles mentioned in part (a) above and what steps Government propose to take to improve the quality of the articles mentioned in part (b)?

#### **The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati):**

(a) No. The supply of winter uniforms has been made to the staff working in hilly areas according to the departmental regulations except that socks are in short supply and overcoats have to be issued to 6 postmen in Kangra Division. Action is being taken to make up the deficiencies as soon as possible.

(b) For fabrication of summer uniforms of the P. & T. staff khadi cloth of standard specification approved by the D.G. S. & D. is used as a general policy. Umbrellas also are procured through the D.G.S. & D. in accordance with the approved specifications.

(c) In view of the replies to (a) and (b), the question does not arise.

#### **Expenditure on Community Development**

**986. Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Community Development, Pan-

**chayati Raj and Cooperation be pleased to state:**

(a) the amount spent during 1961-62 on the Community Development and Panchayati Raj and proposed to be spent during 1962-63 on it by the Centre and the States; and

(b) the number of jeeps which have been withdrawn so far from Community Development Blocks and the savings made thereby?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy):** (a) Rs. 55.29 crores and Rs. 59.04 crores during 1961-62 and 1962-63 respectively by the Centre and the States, including Union Territories.

(b) State Governments have been advised that all available vehicles may be pooled at the District and block level and their use rationalised, so as to meet essential civilian requirements including those of the Community Development Programme. The surplus jeeps are to be made available for Defence effort. As action in this respect is to be taken by State Governments, the requisite information is not available.

#### **Electric Train Services on Sealdah Section**

**987. Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the commencement of electric train services on the Sealdah Section of Eastern Railway is going to be indefinitely delayed due to power shortage; and

(b) if so, the reasons for power-shortage?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) and (b). No, Sir. Power has been promised in time for the introduction of electric traction in stages.

#### **Prices of Arecanut**

**988. Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of arecanut have come down to an uneconomic level during the last year;

(b) if so, what were the prices prevailing at the end of 1961 and at the end of 1962;

(c) the reasons for the steep fall in prices; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to help the cultivators?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) No. There has, however, been some fall in arecanut prices in parts of Kerala.

(b) In Alleppey the prices at the end of 1961 and 1962 were Rs. 29 and Rs. 25 per 1000 nuts; in Shimoga Rs. 649 and Rs. 735 per quintal for Desavaram variety; and in Trichur Rs. 687 and Rs. 725 per quintal for Choor.

(c) Does not arise since there was no steep fall in prices.

(d) The following steps have been taken against any marked fall in prices:

(i) The State Governments and Cooperative Banks have been advised to provide more credit facilities to areca growers to increase their holding power.

(ii) Adequate storage facilities are being provided by the Central and State Warehousing Corporations.

(iii) The import of arecanut has been totally banned under the current Import Policy.