

Development of Sisal Plantation in Orissa

2490. Shri Ulaka: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount was allotted to Orissa for the development of Sisal Plantation in the State during 1961-62 and 1962-63;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose during the Third Plan period?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) to (c). No earmarked grants were made to the Orissa Government for the development of Sisal as such. It is possible that the Orissa Government would have incurred expenditure on Sisal development from out of the bulk development grants made for the State development schemes. Information as to these amounts has been called for and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha when received from the State Government.

Gunupur-Naupada light Railway

2491. { Shri Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the great hardships experienced by the travelling public for want of (i) suitable drinking water facilities and (ii) platform shelters on many stations of the Gunupur-Naupada light Railway (S. E. Railway); and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to provide these basic amenities to the travelling public?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The existing arrangements for drinking water supply on the Naupada-Gunupur sec-

tion are adequate. Platform shelters have been provided at Parlakimedi and Kashinagar stations. Platform shelters are being provided on a programmed basis depending on the quantum of traffic dealt with at stations and subject to the availability of funds and materials. However, all the stations on this section are provided with waiting halls.

Himachal Pradesh State Co-operative Bank

2492. Shri Pratap Singh: Will the Minister of Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Directors of the Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank have formulated staff rules for its employees, specifying an age for retirement, which have been under the consideration of the Registrar Cooperative Societies, Himachal Pradesh for a very long time; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement these rules in the interests of the cooperative movement in Himachal Pradesh?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) and (b). The draft service rules framed by the Board of Directors of the Bank were returned by the Registrar to the Bank with suggestions for certain additions and alterations. The Board of Directors of the Bank are expected to consider the amendments in their next meeting to be held in May, 1963.

P. & T. Offices

2493. Shri D. S. Patil: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Posts and Telegraph Offices at present in Maharashtra, District-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to increase their number during 1963-64 and 1964-65; and