

Agricultural Production

2115. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri N. R. Laskar:
Shri Maheswar Naik:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the achievement as a result of the conference of the High Level study team formed by the Planning Commission with the various State Governments to increase food production in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken since then by the States; and

(c) whether any increase in the output has been obtained so far?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) to (c). The Central Teams made a number of recommendations for accelerating the programmes of agricultural development which have been generally accepted by the State Governments and are in various stages of implementation. The important steps taken since then to increase food production are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2715/64].

Re-modelling of stations between Howrah and Kharagpur

2116. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the rate per thousand c.ft. for remodelling of stations between Howrah and Kharagpur on the S. E. Railway; and

(b) whether this was a tendered rate or a negotiated rate?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawas Khan):

(a) Presumably the Hon'ble Members are referring to rates for execution of earthwork in the yards. The averages of the accepted rates were: (i) Rs. 283/- per thousand cft., where earth

was to be obtained from outside railway land, and (ii) Rs. 125/- thousand cft., where earth was to be obtained from within the railway land. These rates were all inclusive of earthwork in all classification of soil, all lead, lift, royalty and incidental charges.

(b) These reduced rates were obtained as a result of negotiation by the High Level Tender Committee after open public tenders indicated higher rates.

Inland Water Transport

2117. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target was fixed for inland water transport;

(b) if so, the target fixed for Third Five Year Plan;

(c) the extent to which it has been possible to fulfil the targets; and

(d) if there is short-fall the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (d). Originally schemes estimated to cost Rs. 640 crores were included in this Ministry's Third Five Year Plan for the development of Inland Water Transport. Subsequently, additional schemes costing Rs. 1.17 crores were also included in the Plan. A statement indicating the various schemes is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library, See. No. LT-2716/64.]

The financial allocation for Inland Water Transport in the Third Five Year Plan has been restricted to Rs. 4 crores. An expenditure of Rs. 115 lakhs approximately has so far been incurred.

The main reasons for the slow progress of expenditure are:—

1. Inability of the Rivers Steam Navigation Company to avail