

ports of pepper during 1964-65 to 1966-67 were as follows:

Year	Qty. (in tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1964-65	17,381	6.8
1965-66	26,305	11.1
1966-67	20,520	11.5

There has been a fall in exports during 1966-67 compared with 1965-66 due to decrease in production and competition from Indonesian pepper.

(c) and (d). The following are some of the Schemes implemented by State Government to assist the pepper growers:

Long Term Loans (1)—Long term loans are issued to the Pepper growers for increasing the area under Pepper and thereby enhancing the production. An amount of Rs. 500 is issued as loan per acre. It is envisaged in the IV Plan to give Rs. 2.28 lakhs for this purpose.

Package Programme for Pepper (2) An intensive programme for increasing pepper production in 'Package' lines has been launched in two blocks covering a total area of 1000 acres. Apart from the technical guidance to increase the production based on package of practices, plant protection chemicals are issued to the pepper growers of the area at a 50 per cent subsidised rates and a loan of Rs. 125 per acre in the form of pepper mixture is also given. Rs. 7.2 lakhs has been earmarked for this programme during the IV Plan.

Distribution of Quality Root Cuttings (3)—To popularise better quality pepper plants, a programme to produce and distribute 40 lakhs of rooted cuttings during the next four years is in progress. Rs. 9 lakhs has been earmarked for this item in the IV Plan period.

Comprehensive Spraying (4)—A comprehensive spraying against the pepper wilt disease will be conducted

in Cannanore District. The spraying is done free of cost and so no amount is realised from the cultivator. Rs. 10 lakhs has been allotted for the purpose during the IV Plan period.

Establishment of Central Nursery (5)—It is proposed to establish a Central Nursery in Kerala for multiplication and distribution of improved variety of Pepper viz., Panniyur—1.

Railway Lines in Kerala

3449. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shrimati Susela Gopalan:
Shri C. K. Chakrapani:
Shri P. Ramamurti:
Shri E. K. Nayanar:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many railway lines the Kerala Government have suggested in order of priority for inclusion in the Fourth Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether Government think that a link line from Kayankulam to Ernakulam via Alleppey is essential?

The Minister of Railways (Shri O. M. Poonacha): (a) The new railway lines recommended for inclusion in the Fourth Plan by the Government of Kerala in the order of priority are:

- (1) Kottayam-Bodinayakannur via Peermade and Kumili.
- (2) Tellichery-Mysore.
- (3) Kayamkulam-Ernakulam via Alleppey.
- (4) Trivandrum-Cape Comorin.
- (5) Kuttippuram-Ernakulam via Guruvayoor and Crauganore.

(b) No.

**Closing Down of Loco shed at
Asinganj Ja.**

3450. **Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhary:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state: