

(c) 42 employees have been provided with Government accommodation during the last three years.

CROP COMPETITION SCHEME

638-A. Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the crop competition scheme has yielded encouraging results;

(b) if so, what is the average increase in yield per acre for crops under competition schemes State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to take immediate action to implement the Prime Minister's suggestion in his broadcast talk to bring under competition one crore acres of land; and

(d) if so, when steps are likely to be taken?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes.

(b) In the competitions for 1950-51 the highest yield of paddy per acre in competition plots was 12,000 lbs. (wet) in Madras as against the average yield of 1,900 lbs. per acre. The highest yields of wheat and potatoes during the same year were shown by U.P. at 59 mds. 25 seers and 11 chs. and 726 mds. 3 seers and 3 chs. per acre respectively against the average yields of 20 mds. and 575 mds. per acre respectively. Full information on the increase in the per acre yield of crops under competition is not available.

(c) and (d). Yes. Crop competition fortnights are organised through State Governments immediately before the *Kharif* and *Rabi* sowing to enlist as many competitors as possible. As an incentive to competitors the all-India prizes have been raised to Rs. 5,000 for the winner of each of the selected crops. A certificate of 'Krishi Pandit' is also awarded to the all-India prize winners. In addition private firms have offered prizes.

POST OFFICE FOR SAHSAUL

639. Shri L. N. Mishra: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some representations from the leading people of the area with the recommendation of the local S.D.O. for opening a Post Office at Sahsaul in the district of Bhogalpore (North) Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said village has a population of over two thousand and has no Post Office at a distance of less than six miles; and

(c) whether Government propose to sanction a Post Office for the said village?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) No, according to the 1951 census, the population of Sahsaul is 1,778. The reply to the latter part of the question is in the affirmative.

(c) The matter is under examination.

BOOKING OF VEGETABLES FROM SILIGURI

640. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether vegetables booking from Siliguri to cities in West Bengal has been stopped;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) whether Government have received on this subject a representation from the Vegetable Merchants' Association of Siliguri; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A representation has been received from the Vegetable Merchants Association, Siliguri, but it relates to the detention to vegetable traffic at Manihari Ghat and Sakrigali Ghat stations.

(d) Instructions already exist for ensuring prompt transhipment of vegetable traffic received at Manihari Ghat and Sakrigali Ghat from stations on the North Eastern Railway by the corresponding passenger steamer and train respectively. In the absence of any concrete instance of alleged delay, a general examination was made of bookings, during the period 10th June to 10th July, 1952, which revealed that generally all vegetable packages were promptly cleared from Manihari Ghat and Sakrigali Ghat.

RAILWAY BOOKING FROM NEW DELHI

641. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that goods booking from New Delhi was on the basis of "free-quota system" in December, 1950;