

Plan for the benefit and comfort of the third class passengers?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House indicating the amenities and facilities that have been introduced on Railways since 1947. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 39].

(c) It is intended to continue spending Rs. 3 crores on passenger amenities every year during the period of the first 5-year plan. The actual details of works were up till now being determined in consultation with the Amenities Sub Committee of the local Advisory Committees, and they will in future be determined in consultation with the Users Committees that are being brought into existence.

SESAMUM PRODUCTION

644. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the acreage of land under sesamum production has marked any increase in the year 1952-53 over the previous figures;

(b) if so, what was the increased acreage of land; and

(c) whether production has also increased?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes, by about 0.4 per cent.

(b) About 21,000 acres.

(c) Yes, by 10,000 tons.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES

645. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether facility exists for registering abbreviated telegraphic addresses in Devanagari script as it is done in English; and

(b) if so, whether the rates of registration are the same as in English?

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

(b) Yes. If, however, the same abbreviated address is registered in both English and Devanagari, the extra charge for the Devanagari registration is only one-fourth of the normal charges.

INDIGENOUS MEDICAL HERBS

646. Shri Jajwari: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether

Government have taken up the survey work of indigenous medical herbs which exist all over the country, as recommended by the Chopra Committee.

The Minister of Health (Rajkumar Amrit Kaur): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 40].

RAILWAY LANDS

647. Shri Nambiar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the procedure of leasing out of 'A' class lands to Railwaymen has been changed recently and if so, why;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Revenue officials are auctioning these lands to the detriment of the right of occupancy of the Railwaymen who were enjoying it for long periods; and

(c) whether representations have been received against this recent change and if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) There has been no recent change in the procedure obtaining from 1942-43.

(b) The leasing of temporary surplus Railway land handed over by Railways to the State Governments to individual cultivators is being done in some cases by Revenue officials through public notifications and auctions. No occupancy rights were conferred on or are now acquired by either Railway servants or other cultivators in such cases.

(c) In view of the reply to part (a), the question does not arise.

BOMBAY BOUND PASSENGERS FOR KUTCH MANDVI

648. Shri Gidwani: (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a number of Bombay-bound passengers for Kutch Mandvi intending to board Saraswati Steamer were carried away five miles into the sea by the country crafts due to poor visibility, owing to stormy weather in the 1st week of January, 1953?

(b) Is it a fact that the property of the passengers worth about Rs. 75,000/- was lost in the incident?

(c) Is it a fact that the representations have been made to Government to provide safety measures for preventing such incidents and enabling sea passengers to embark vessels in