

(a) how far the programme for attaining self-sufficiency in cotton has progressed since it was launched;

(b) the total expenditure incurred so far by Government to implement this programme;

(c) what are the requirements of India; and

(d) to what extent it has still to go to be self-sufficient in this respect?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The production of cotton in the country has progressively increased from 26.28 lakh bales in 1949-50 to 39.35 lakh bales in the 1953-54. The production in the current year is estimated to be 42 lakh bales which is the target fixed for the Plan period upto 1955-56.

(b) The amounts sanctioned so far by the Government of India on account of these schemes are Rs. 66 lakhs as out right grants and Rs. 205 lakhs as loans. The figures of the actual expenditure are not available as the accounts have not yet been finalised.

(c) The total annual requirement of cotton in India may be estimated at 52 lakhs bales, including 7 lakh bales of foreign cotton.

(d) India is at present self-sufficient in respect of cotton of staples length below 1-1/16". But the cotton of 1-1/16" staples length and above is not grown in India on a commercial scale and is therefore imported from foreign countries. Production of such cotton in India to meet the needs of the textile industry in full is a long-range problem. Efforts made to produce such cotton have met with some measure of success.

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL ASSOCIATION

945. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are in any way associated in the functioning of the International Hotel Association;

(b) if so, the nature of the association as well as obligations and advantages of the same;

(c) whether it is proposed to hold a convention of that Association in India; and

(d) if so, the extent of participation, both financial or otherwise, in this connection?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes in February, 1955.

(d) All arrangements connected with the Convention are being made by the All India Hotel Federation who will act as a host to the delegates. The Federation's request for a subsidy of Rs. 25,000 to meet part of the expenses of the Convention, is under consideration.

CHILD LABOUR

946. { **Shri Gidwani:**
Shri Tushar Chatterjea:

Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the restrictions on employment of child labour are not being observed in many factories, cottage industries and plantations; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Labour (Shri K. K. Desai): (a) Yes; the reports received from the State Governments and also the Report on "Child Labour in India", recently published by the Director, Labour Bureau, show that the restrictions imposed on the employment

of children by the Factories Act, 1948 and the Employment of Children Act, 1938, are not being fully observed. The Plantations Labour Act, 1951, has been enforced as recently as the 1st April, 1954, and therefore no information is available as to whether it is being fully observed or not.

(b) Government have already addressed the State Governments in respect of employments of children in *bidī* factories. They propose to address them further in regard to other industries.

DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS FOR TELGERAPHS

947. Shri R. N. S. Deo: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the mileage of telegraph lines in a Circle considered necessary for the appointment of a Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs;

(b) whether any new post of a Sub-Divisional Officer or Divisional Engineer is proposed to be created for Orissa Circle; and

(c) if so, when?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The factors that justify the creation of a Telegraph Engineering Division are complex and therefore each case is examined on merits.

(b) and (c). Some proposals are under consideration and a decision will be taken shortly.

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE LINES

948. Shri R. N. S. Deo: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the mileage of Telegraph and Telephone carrier junction lines at Jharsuguda and Sambalpur districts and the name of the circle to which they belong; and

(b) the mileage of new telegraphs and telephone lines proposed to be laid in Orissa?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) (i) 340.57.

(ii) In Central Circle : 94.47 miles. In Bihar Circle. 246 miles.

(b) No special large scale construction is anticipated in the near future.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

949. Shri Ganpati Ram: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an official inquiry has been instituted by the Railway Authorities at Danapur about the death of Shri Sumer Ram, watchman No. 7697 who died on the 13th July, 1954; and

(b) if so, what is the nature of the report submitted thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, a Junior Officers Enquiry was held on 24th July, 1954.

(b) As the police are also making enquiries independently, it would be advisable to wait for their completion before arriving at final conclusions.

PASSENGER AMENITIES

950. Shri Bheekha Bhai: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide more accommodation to third and inter class passengers in the direct carriage from Delhi to Udaipur by addition of one more bogie; and

(b) if so, when this proposal will be implemented?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No, Sir, as there is no traffic justification for an additional through coach.

(b) Does not arise.