

to the Govt. of Andhra during 1955-56 for the purchase and distribution of Ammonium Sulphate. Besides, a grant of Rs. 0.12 lakh and a long-term loan of Rs. 4.00 lakhs was sanctioned to the State Govts. for their urban compost scheme during the same year. No subsidy was granted to the State Govt. for this purpose.

(b) The total consumption of ammonium Sulphate in Andhra during the year 1955 was 83,800 tons as against 66,700 tons in the years 1953 and 1954 respectively. Similar information regarding phosphatic manure and fertilisers has been called for from the State Govt. and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha when received.

(c) A total quantity of 90,000 tons of Sulphate of Ammonia was indented by the Government of Andhra for the year 1955 and it was allocated to them during that year.

(d) A short-term loan of Rs. 229.25 lakhs has been agreed to during the discussion of the G.M.F. Programme of the Andhra State for 1956-57. A part from this, a long-term loan of Rs. 3.00 lakhs and a grant of Rs. 0.05 lakh has also been agreed to for the urban compost scheme.

#### POST OFFICES IN ANDHRA

**2536. Shri Eswara Reddi :** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state the number and names of rural and urban post offices actually opened from 1st January, 1956 to 31st March, 1956 in Cuddapah District (Andhra) ?

**The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) :** A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 26].

#### POST OFFICES IN CUDDAPAH

**2537. Shri Eswara Reddi :** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state :

the number and names of rural and urban post-offices proposed to be opened in Cuddapah District (Andhra) during the year 1956-57 ?

**The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) :** A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 27].

#### COCOANUTS AND BETEL-NUTS

**2538. Shri Debendra Nath Sarma :** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether it is proposed to give grants to Government of Assam for improving coconuts and betel-nuts during the current financial year ?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh) :** Yes.

**Coconut.** A provision of Rs. 70,000 for a Coconut nursery scheme and a scheme for the extension of Coconut cultivation in Assam, has been included in the Second Five Year Plan. The amount is to be shared by the Central and the State Governments on a 50:50 basis. Provision has been made for a Central Grant of Rs. 7,000 for these schemes in the current financial year.

**...Betel-nut (Areca-nut).** A provision of Rupees four lakhs has been made in the Second Five Year Plan for a scheme for the Extension of Areca-nut Cultivation in Assam. The amount is to be shared by the central and State Governments on a 50:50 basis. Provision has been made for a Central Grant of Rs. 40,000 for this Scheme in the Current financial year.

#### PALLEDARS

**2539. Shri Kamath :** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 the wages of palledars employed in the Goods Shed, Allahabad (Northern Railway) were fixed at Rs. 1-12 per diem ;