

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This Ministry are engaged in a continuous process of evaluating and reviewing the content and methodology of the Community Development Programme. They have taken note of the contents and valuable suggestions and recommendations made by Mr. Wilson. Copies of the Report have been sent to the States. Important points in the Report will receive consideration at intra-State and inter-State Seminars, and will finally come up at the annual Development Commissioners' Conference. The Development Commissioners' Conference considers and makes recommendations on specific points arising throughout the year as a result of evaluation reports by the Programme Evaluation Organisation, by sociological workers and others, as well as those arising out of experience of the working of the programme in the field. Decisions taken, after going through the democratic processes of exchange of ideas from the level of the village upwards, are then formalised into procedures for implementation during subsequent years.

Abolition of Metre-Gauge Lines

*563. { Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad :
Shri Anirudha Sinha :
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh :
Shri Bibhuti Mishra :
Shri C. R. Iyyanni :

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have outlined any programme for the gradual abolition of metre gauge lines in the country; and

(b) if so, whether any approximate time schedule has been drawn up?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Onions

*564. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy :** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) the annual production and consumption of onion in the country; and

(b) Government's policy for encouraging its export ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) Being a non-forecast crop regular estimates of production of Onions are not framed

in all States. The available information is, however, laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 8]. Statistics regarding consumption of onions are not available.

(b) Government allows exports of onions subject to considerations of internal prices.

Oilseeds Crushing Industry Enquiry Committee

*565. **Shri Dabhi :** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 483 on 30th July, 1956 and state :

(a) whether Government have since completed the examination of the recommendations of the Oilseeds Crushing Industry Enquiry Committee; and

(b) if so, what is their decision thereon?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

Buckingham Canal

*566. { Shri K. S. Rao :
Shri M. Islamuddin :

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1799 on the 13th September, 1956, and state :

(a) whether the proposal to widen the Buckingham Canal with a view to make it navigable by motor launches has been finalised;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted; and

(c) the amount required for this purpose?

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

(b) Technical investigations by the Governments of Madras and Andhra are in progress,

(c) A sum of Rs. 42,000 has been sanctioned for the technical investigations. The actual cost of the project will be known only when the results of the technical investigations are available.