

riverine fishing in Andhra Pradesh during the First Five Year Plan; and

(b) the results thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b). A statement indicating the amounts of loans and subsidies granted to the State Government during First Five Year Plan is laid on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 38].

A research unit of the Central Inland Fisheries Research Station carried out survey of the fish seed resources of the rivers of Andhra in connection with the preparation of the Fish Farmers Calendar, which has since been published and also advised the State Government on improved fish culture practices.

#### Tourist Centre at Tirupati

724. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far to make Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) a tourist centre; and

(b) the money allotted for the same during 1957-58?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The "Guide to South India" brought out by the Central Government in 1954 copies of which have been widely circulated and also placed on sale, mentions the tourist attractions of Tirupati. Foreigners are not allowed to go up the Holy Hills where the sacred shrine is situated. The place has importance for the home tourists and pilgrims and the Devanathanam Trust has already made good arrangements for them.

#### G.P.O. Madras

725. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations were made regarding the lack of

accommodation in the G.P.O. Madras; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of Lok Sabha in due course.

#### Railway Corruption Cases

726. Shri Ghosal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many corruption cases of the Howrah goods office of the Eastern Railway were brought to the notice of the higher authorities; and

(b) what steps have been taken in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) 76.

(b) A Fact Finding investigation into 54 of these cases has been completed and a whole-time committee has been constituted to expedite the investigation of the remaining cases.

Preventive action has also been taken.

#### मरुभूमि नियंत्रण

७२७. श्री अनिरुद्ध सिंह : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारतवर्ष में मरुभूमि का कितना क्षेत्रफल है और यह मरुभूमि कहाँ कहाँ पर है ; और

(ख) क्या पिछले पांच वर्षों में मरुभूमि के क्षेत्रफल में कोई वृद्धि हुई है ?

खाद्य और कृषि उपमंत्री (श्री अ०म० धामस) : (क) लगभग ८०,००० वर्गमील, जो सौराष्ट्र के भागों, उत्तरी गुजरात और बम्बई राज्य में कच्छ की रत (Ran of Kutch) राजस्थान के उत्तरी और पश्चिमी क्षेत्रों, पंजाब के दक्षिण-पश्चिमी भागों में फैला हुआ है ।