

Jute Production

1292. **Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the average increase in jute production since 1947 state-wise;

(b) what further steps Government propose to take to reach the production target set for the Second Five Year Plan; and

(c) the quality of improved seed distributed by seed farms since 1952 year-wise?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V annexure No. 40.]

Ramgundam-Nizamabad Rail Link

1293. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 315 on the 20th November, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has since completed the examination of the Traffic Survey Report of Ramgundam-Nizamabad rail link;

(b) if so, the nature of decision arrived at; and

(c) what will be the estimated cost of this project?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (c). Not yet, Sir. The Railway Administration had been asked to re-estimate the earnings, financial implications and cost of construction taking into account some of the factors indicated by the Railway Board. The information has just not yet been received in full from the Railway Administration.

Passenger Traffic on Imphal-Dimapur Road

1294. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a heavy congestion of passenger

traffic on the Imphal-Dimapur Road during December, 1957 and January, 1958;

(b) what is the total number of passengers carried by State Transport buses during the above period;

(c) what steps are being taken to cope with the heavy traffic;

(d) whether it is a fact that State Transport buses which were plying on the Burma Road and the Tiddim Road have been withdrawn; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) 77,133 on all routes and 72,633 on Imphal-Dimapur route including all intermediate stations.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes.

(e) It was considered more advantageous to the Manipur State Transport and the public that the State Transport should concentrate on providing efficient services on fewer routes rather than dispersing the vehicles and the staff on several routes.

Supply of Wagons to Traders of Bareilly

1295. **Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North Eastern Railway failed to supply wagons to the traders of Bareilly and the adjoining districts as a result of which the supply of foodgrains to the drought affected areas was greatly hampered; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). During the six months period ending February, 1958, a total of 1683 wagons of foodgrains were loaded from principal foodgrain loading stations of