

tube lambs to produce superfine quality wool as early as possible; and

(b) if so, at what stage the scheme is?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) and (b). There is no such scheme under the consideration of Government. Preliminary experiments in artificial insemination in sheep have been conducted at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, which proposes to formulate a research scheme for conducting further investigations for the consideration of and financial assistance from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

**All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta**

**928. Shri Subiman Ghose:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the amount Government of India received from World Health Organisation and U.N.I.C.E.F. for Singur Health Centre, of the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta;

(b) the cost of construction of students' hostel and the area of land acquired for it;

(c) when the land was acquired:

(d) whether it is a fact that the persons whose lands have been acquired, have not been paid compensation upto now;

(e) whether it is a fact that Government of West Bengal has been corresponding with the Government of India for such payment since 1954 and the final estimate of which was sent by Government of West Bengal to the Central Government on 15th July, 1958 and a reminder thereto on 25th August, 1958; and

(f) if so, the reasons for delay in such payments.

**The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar):** (a) The Singur Health Centre

is a part of the M.C.H. Scheme of the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta. The M.C.H. Scheme estimated to cost about Rs. 80 lakhs was sponsored by the Government of India and W.H.O./U.N.I.C.E.F. on a 50:50 basis. No specific amount has been allotted by the W.H.O./U.N.I.C.E.F. for the Singur Health Centre.

(b) The cost of construction of the Students' Hostel is Rs. 2,86,641.00. The total area of land requisitioned comprises about 3.47 acres.

(c) During the year 1954.

(d) Necessary sanction to the payment of the compensation has been accorded.

(e) It is not a fact that the Government of West Bengal has been corresponding with the Government of India for such payments since 1954. The final rates of compensation per acre of land were communicated in January, 1957, and the final estimated amount of compensation was intimated to the Central Government on the 15th July, 1958. It is true that the Government of West Bengal wrote to the Central Government on the 25th August, 1958 to expedite sanction which has since been accorded.

(f) The delay was due to procedural formalities involved in consulting the concerned Ministries with regard to the correctness of the amount of compensation recommended.

**Fast Growing Fruit Trees**

**929. Shri U. C. Patnaik:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to popularise the planting of fast-growing fruit trees in the various Union Territories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) A scheme for the development of fruit production has been sanctioned in the Union Territories of Himachal Pradesh, Tripura and Delhi, under the Second Five Year Plan Programme. This scheme covers all the fruit crops including the fast-growing ones.

(b) A statement showing the schemes so far sanctioned is placed on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 32.]

#### Over-bridge at Badarpur Junction

930. Shrimati Masida Ahmed: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the construction of an over-bridge at Badarpur junction on the hill-section of the N.E.F. Railway; and

(b) if so, when the work is proposed to be started?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir A proposal for a foot over-bridge is under consideration.

(b) It is too early to say.

#### Unemployment among Seamen

931. Shrimati Masida Ahmed: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 845 on the 20th August, 1958 and state what steps are contemplated to be taken to solve the unemployment problem among seamen?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The employment of seamen is intermittent. That is they are engaged by Shipping Companies for a round voyage generally lasting for a period of 12 to 18 months on completion of which they return to their homes and spend some time with their families until they are called again for employment. From

the statistics maintained by the Seamen's Employment Offices, it is found that the waiting period of employment of seamen does not generally exceed six months. In fact, it has been reported that not infrequently shortages are felt in meeting the requirements of Shipping Companies as seamen do not either respond to the call letters or care to present themselves for selection on due dates. It can, therefore, be said that there is hardly any large scale unemployment among seamen.

#### Amount missing from Post Offices

932. Shrimati Masida Ahmed: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount reported missing from different Post Offices in the state of Assam during the period from 1st April, 1956 to 31st October, 1958; and

(b) the measures taken by Government to check recurrence of such losses?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) Rs. 48,406.94.

(b) Supervision has been tightened.

#### Malabar Hotel

933. Shri Kodliyan: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lease of the Malabar Hotel in Willingdon Island to the present lessee will terminate by June 1959;

(b) whether Government intend to lease out the Hotel again;

(c) whether it is not possible for the Government to run the Hotel directly; and

(d) what guarantees do Government propose to incorporate in the lease contract to safeguard the interests of the present employees?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Yes.