

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) A careful review of the price trends during the last 2 years indicates that futures trading in pepper has not adversely affected the interests of pepper growers.

(b) No, Sir.

#### Railway Projects in Madhya Pradesh

1333. Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for the construction of Lalitpur-Sagar-Narsinghpur-Seoni-Gondia Railway line passing through Sagar, Narsinghpur, Chhindwara and Seoni Districts in view of the immense possibility of establishment of forest based, other mineral based industries and steel industries, which can offer large scale employment to the rural and tribal population and refugees from East Pakistan and to other Indian repatriates; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Water Supply at Narsinghpur Railway Station

1334. Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Narsinghpur railway station, Central Railway, receives its water supply from Singri river;

(b) whether the Railways put up a bund on this river in 1966 and 1967 to maintain the water supply to railways;

(c) whether it is a fact that the bund put by Railways did not allow any water to flow down stream and the river dried up in April 1966 and in February, 1967 causing hardship to people and cattle living down stream.

(d) whether it is also a fact that by putting bund, the water became stagnant and dirty and consequently unfit for drinking purposes; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. A temporary bund was put up across this river in 1966 & 1967.

(c) No. The river dried up due to poor rainfall during the last two monsoons and not because of putting up the bund, even though out-lets for flow of water were provided in the bund in consultation with the Collector Narsinghpur.

(d) No. The water is not dirty and it is being used by the Railway.

(e) Does not arise in view of rep'y to (d) above.

#### Coir Manufacturing Industries in Kerala

1335. Shri K. M. Abraham: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start coir manufacturing factories in the coastal areas of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the sites proposed therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):

(a) and (b). The Coir Board, a statutory body under the administrative control of Central Government, is setting up a powerloom factory for production of coir matting in Kalavoor, Alleppey District (Kerala). The State Government of Kerala also propose to start coir manufacturing factories in the coastal areas but the sites for these factories have not yet been decided.