

**Brahmaputra Bridge at Shillong**

**3553. Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of the Brahmaputra Bridge at Shillong is expected to be completed within a few months;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that its completion will give to the meter gauge system direct access to coal-fields in Assam; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to extend Shahdara-Saharanpur Light Railway to Meerut and Baghpat and connect it with meter gauge line to facilitate through coal traffic by meter gauge from Assam coal fields to Delhi and Meerut?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):**

(a) Yes, but the bridge is between Amingaon and Pandu and not at Shillong.

(b) The completion of the bridge will provide direct connection between the metre gauge systems existing at either side of the Brahmaputra River. The coalfields in Assam are already connected by rail.

(c) No. In fact there is hardly any surplus coal to move out from Assam.

**Sisal Plantation**

**3554. Shri David Munzri:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many concerns are engaged in sisal plantation in the States of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal;

(b) whether there is constant labour trouble in the plantations in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

**हिमाचल प्रदेश में ग्राम पंचायतें**

**३५५५. श्री विभूति मिश्र :** क्या सामुदायिक विकास, पंचायती राज और सहकार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में ग्राम पंचायतों के चुनाव में गुप्त मतपत्र के प्रयोग की मांग की गई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पर क्या निर्णय किया गया है ?

**सामुदायिक विकास, पंचायती राज और सहकार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री श्यामधर मिश्र) :** (क) व (ख) गांव पंचायतों के चुनावों में हाथ उठा कर मत देने की वर्तमान चुनाव प्रणाली के स्थान पर गुप्त मत पत्र का प्रचलन करने का प्रश्न इस समय हिमाचल प्रदेश प्रशासन के विचाराधीन है ।

**Cotton Production**

**3556. Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what was the total acreage under cotton during the last season and also the total yield thereof?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** The area and production of cotton in India during the last (1960-61) season were 18.97 million acres and 53.91 lakh bales respectively. For the current year (1961-62), estimates of area and production have not yet been received from all States; but the outturn is expected to be of the order of 44.6 lakh bales.

**तीसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना में उत्तर प्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय राजपथ**

**३५५७. श्री सरजू पाण्डेय:** क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या तीसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना में बनने वाले राष्ट्रीय राजपथों तथा उन पर