

Production of Pepper in Kerala

	Year	Value in '000' of Rs.
2172. {	1959-60	81812
	1960-61	84970

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of pepper in Kerala;

(b) the total exports in 1959-60 and 1960-61, year-wise;

(c) if there is decline in production, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the amount of foreign exchange earned in 1959-60 and 1960-61 on account of export?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food & Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) The total production of pepper in Kerala during 1961-62 was of the order of 26,550 tons.

(b) The total quantity of exports from India during 1959-60 and 1960-61 was as under:—

Year	Qty. in '000' kg.
1959-60	20,672
1960-61	17,202

(c) There was a nominal decrease of about 0.2% in 1961-62 as compared to the production in the preceding year, i.e. 1960-61. The production in Kerala State for these two years was as under:—

Year	Production (in tons)
1960-61	26,600
1961-62	26,550

The decline of about 50 tons has been reported due to unfavourable weather conditions at the time of flowering and growing period of the crop.

(d) The amount of foreign exchange earned during 1959-60 and 1960-61 is as follows:—

Pepper Price

2173. {	Shri A. K. Gopalan:
	Shri Umanath:
	Shri Pottekkatt:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the price of pepper during the last 3 years;

(b) the market price at present; and

(c) if the prices have declined, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Food in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) A statement showing the month-end prices of pepper during the last 3 years at selected centres viz., Cochin and Madras is laid on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 52].

(b) The month-end price for May, 1962 for Cochin is Rs. 114.02 per maund.

(c) The current prices of pepper are lower than 1960 and 1961 prices but are higher than the prices in 1959. The prices in 1960 and 1961 were high as there was a larger demand for our exports owing to a decline in production in Indonesia.

Kariankode Bridge

2174. {	Shri A. K. Gopalan:
	Shri Umanath:
	Shri Pottekkatt:

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kariankode bridge on the West Coast Road has been completed;

(b) if not, the probable time when it will be completed;