

There are in addition, a number of Tourist Cars which are available for public parties for booking under the rules on the subject. These carriages are also used by railway officers, as and when available, while going on tour.

(b) Rs. 2,65 lakhs.

(c) Rs. 1,56 thousand per annum.

Poultry Breeding

299. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the American Government have given a five year grant of a sum of about a lakh Dollars for research in poultry breeding to the Rajasthan College of Agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details of research programme and how the grant is to be utilised?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes.

(b) A grant of Rs. 5 lakhs to be spent over a period of five years, has been offered by the Government of the United States, from PL 480 counterpart funds to the Rajasthan College of Agriculture for undertaking research on "Effectiveness of different methods of utilizing available sources of germ plasm in improving the productive performance of poultry". The matter is under discussion with the University Authorities.

Import of Potatoes from Burma

300. Shri Lalit Sen: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that have prompted Government to allow import of potatoes from Burma; and

(b) whether Government have considered the effect of this import upon marketing of potatoes produced in India?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Foreign exchange worth Rs. 10.2 lakhs was released last year for importing seed potatoes, and not table potatoes from Burma, as internal production of improved seed potato is still not adequate to meet the growing demand.

(b) Does not arise in view of the fact that we are not yet self-sufficient in seed potato.

Halt station between Nabha and Dhablan stations

301. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open a new halt station between Nabha and Dhablan on the Ambala-Dhuri Branch line in the Delhi Division; and

(b) if so, the details and estimated cost thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). A suggestion for opening of a new halt station between Nabha and Dhablan stations has been received. The matter is under examination.

Hotels

302. Shri Yashpal Singh: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hotels which have been permitted to collaborate with the foreign countries; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) So far only one party viz. Messrs. East India Hotels Ltd., New Delhi has entered into an agreement with Messrs. Intercontinental Hotel Corporation of America for putting up a hotel each in Delhi, Bombay and Agra. The Government of