

### Railways Hill Concession Tickets

\*1553. SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway concession ticket is to be made available from the 15th May to 31st October each year ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that previously the Hill Concession came into force on the 1st April ;

(c) if so, the reasons for such a change ;

(d) whether Government are aware that in Ooty, the season starts from March and ends by May and that the second season starts after the monsoon in October ;

(e) if so whether Government propose to review the decision in this regard ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Except for Srinagar and Pathankot, hill concession return tickets are being introduced this year from 15th May and will continue to be issued up to 15th October. In the case of Srinagar and Pathankot, such tickets have been introduced with effect from 15th April.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In view of the present financial position of Railways, it is the general policy to reduce concessions to the extent practicable.

(d) The season in Ootacamund starts about the middle of April and ends about the end of June. The season in October is comparatively not so popular.

(e) and (f). The matter has now been reconsidered and it has been decided to allow the concession from 1st of May instead of 15th May, 1968.

### Regional Coir Research Station, Uluberia

\*1554. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) how for the mechanical extraction of fibre from unretted husks at the Regional

Coir Research Station in Uluberia has succeeded ;

(b) whether the machinery used is all indigenous ;

(c) whether any other research work is done there ;

(d) how many times the works of the Regional Research Station have been supervised by the Central Coir Research Institute since its inception ; and

(e) whether any local Committee has been set up by the Coir Board to survey the working of the Regional Research Station ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Due to non-availability of suitable husks the mechanical extraction of fibre from unretted husks was not successful. The work of the Station was suspended from the 10th March, 1967.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The work of the station was supervised ten times since its inception.

(e) No, Sir.

### Import of Cashewnuts

\*1555. SHRI P. VISWAMBHARAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that cashew industrialists in India find it difficult to import raw cashewnuts from African countries ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to make India self-sufficient in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is planned to increase the production of raw nuts from the present level of 1.57 lakh tonnes to 3.28 lakh tonnes by 1970-71.

### Issue of Licences

\*1556. SHRI MAHARAJ SINGH BHARATI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the different kinds of licences issued