

Shri Deva Sharma, Asst. Commercial -Supdt. (East) who was under orders of transfer hits since been relieved on 27-3-72 from the Allahabad Division, to carry out his transfer.

SHAHADARA-SAHARANPUR RAILWAY LINE

* 350. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to replace the former Shmhdara-Saharanpur line which has since been closed down, by a board-gauge or metre-gauge under Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

CARDAMOM REPLANTING FINANCE SCHEME

*351. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYA-NARAYANA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the working of the Cardamom Replanting Finance Scheme during the past three years; and

(b) the number of licences granted under the Scheme for the purpose of streamlining the marketing methods?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b) A statement containing the required information is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The objective of the Cardamom Replanting Finance Scheme is to provide financial assistance for replanting of un-economic cardamom plantations, particularly for the benefit of the small growers. During the initial three years period, Government have indicated an annual target of 200 acres. During 1969-70 and 1970-71, the loan assistance granted was at the rate of Rs. 1,300/- per acre (Rs. 600/-, Rs. 300/- and Rs. 400/- in the first, second and, third year respectively). From 1971-72 on-

wards the rate of loan assistance has been enhanced to Rs. 1,600/- per acre (Rs. 750/-Rs. 400/- and Rs. 450/- during the first, second and third year respectively). Initially though the targets fixed have not been achieved, there is visible improvement in the years following having exceeded the target in the year 1970-71 as will be seen from the following statement:

Year	No. of loanees to whom loan has been given.	Acreage covered	Amount of loan disbursed by the Cardamom Board
			Rs.
1969-70	12	117	70,200
1970-71	32	238	1,75,800*
1971-72	28 (first instalment)	187	1,58,250
(29-2-1972)	7 (Second instalment)	60	

*This includes also the second instalment of loan to previous year's loanees.

(b) The following are the licences and certificates granted to auctioneers, brokers and dealers:—

Year	Auctioneers	Brokers	Dealers
1968-69	53	84	763
1969-70	45	125	1046
1970-71	54	109	993
1971-72	45	80	895
(6-3-1972)			

DIRECT TRAIN FROM DELHI TO KANYAKUMARI

♦352. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce a direct train from Delhi to Kanyakumari; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It would be possible to do so after conversion of the Ernakulam-Trivandrum metre gauge