

a limited number of lines and if the demand in that town was very high and an automatic exchange was not available, the demand could have been met by a manual exchange and when automatic exchange becomes available the manual exchange will be replaced by the automatic exchange. It is quite Simple.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: What is the approximate cost involved in changing the systems now and then?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: I have not got the figures, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we might well pass on to the next question.

EXTENSION OF RAILWAY LINE TO JAMMU

•278. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 42 and its supplementaries in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 1962 and state:

(a) whether the reconnaissance survey for the extension of the railway line to Jammu has been completed; and

(b) whether there is any likelihood of extending the railway line to Jammu during the Third Five Year Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Field work of the survey has been Completed and the recess work is in hand

(b) The project is not included in the Railway's programme of construction of new lines during the Third Five Year Plan as published by the Planning Commission.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT: May I know if the work on the Madhopur-Kathua line is proceeding according to schedule and what percentage of the work has been completed so far?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The work is progressing fairly satisfactorily.

SPECIAL MEASURES TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION

•279. SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the emergency created by the Chinese invasion on our northern borders, Government have decided to take any special measures for increasing food and other agricultural production in the country; and

(b) if so, what are those special measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH) -(a) and (b) The Ministry of Agriculture have advised the State Governments to grow green vegetables including onions and potatoes in the border areas of Assam, West Bengal and Bihar with the assistance of interest-free loans and small subsidies. A target of 14,500 acres has been suggested for this purpose.

The Government have also advised the State Governments to arrange for the production of short duration emergency crops like sweet potatoes, cheena, summer and Boro paddy, summer maize, Moong, etc. with the help of Community Development Staff. The State Governments have been further advised to procure the required quantity of seeds and planting material and promote the digging of 'Kutchi' wells in this connection, wherever possible.

It has been decided to step up the all-India Third Plan targets for minor irrigation and soil conservation programmes by 50 per cent.

SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT: May I know whether any special measures are under consideration in connection with adequate supply of fertilisers in places where they are not available or adequate and also in regard to the proper distribution of implements?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Yea; all such measures are not only under consideration but are under implementation actually.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: Will the Government give wide publicity to the special measures which they are now going to undertake?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: We have written to the State Governments and I have already sent the Agricultural Commissioner to Assam. He has visited different districts—I myself visited some of the districts—and we are in touch with some of the Deputy Commissioners and agricultural officers directly. We have asked the Assam Government to have 2,000 acres immediately brought under vegetable cultivation in and around Tezpur, 1,000 acres under green vegetables and onions near Siliguri, 1,500 acres near Darjeeling, 5,000 acres in Purnea-Saharsa and another 5,000 acres in Bhagalpur-Saharsa-Purnea. We have also asked our publicity wing to take it up but I do not much believe in publicity. I want to see—and I shall see—that these 14,500 acres give vegetables immediately. And our plan is to grow more vegetables in all the fields after the paddy is harvested and after the rabi harvest also we shall raise some quick-maturing crops as well as vegetables wherever any type of irrigation facility is available.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if the Government are going to stop the export of onions, potatoes and bananas to foreign countries?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Actually we are not at the moment experiencing any type of food difficulty and we are in a position today to meet any requirement. So we are not at all bothered about the exports. I can get that much of onion grown here within two months.

*280. [The questioner (Shri Bairagi Dunbedt) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1595-96 infra.]

*281. [The questioner (Shri B. D. Khobaragade) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1596 infra.]

KANDLA FREE TRADE ZONE

*175. SHRI J. H. JOSHI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stage of the scheme to set up a free trade port at Kandla;

(b) how long it will take to materialise; and

(c) what amount of trade is expected to be handled in the free trade zone during first five years of HSs operation?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING or THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) to (c) The scheme, including the estimates of trade anticipated in the Zone, is still under consideration and a decision is likely to be taken soon.

SHRI J. H. JOSHI: How much area is proposed to be set apart for the free trade zone?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Tentatively one mile square area is proposed to be fixed, but it will depend upon the size of the zone that is finally fixed.

*Transferred from the 15th November, 1962.