

has narrowed down our dependency on imports from Pakistan from 45 lakh bales in 1948-49 to 6.95 lakh bales in 1957-58.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know what is the total acreage of land at the moment under jute cultivation and whether any increase has been recorded during the last year?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir, a very considerable increase has been recorded. This year, that is, in 1958-59, the area under jute cultivation is 16.47 lakh acres as against 14.73 lakh acres during the last year, 1957-58. This shows an increase of 1.74 lakh acres, or 11.8 per cent. over the preceding season.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I have the break-up of jute cultivation according to the States?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I have got it. I am prepared to lay the statement on the Table of the House.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the Government have in hand any expansion scheme for jute cultivation?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir. We have intensified the drive so far as better cultivation of jute is concerned. We are trying to improve it. There is not much emphasis on increase of area, but on better production.

BUILDING FOR THE HEAD POST OFFICE AT BARIPADA

*429. **SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) since when the head post office at Baripada has been located in a rented house and what is the annual rent paid therefor;

(b) whether Government propose to construct a building for this post office; and

(c) if so, when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (**SHRI S. K. PATIL**): (a) The Post Office at Baripada has been located since 1-4-1957 in a rented building at an annual rent of Rs. 2,400.

(b) and (c). The proposal is at an initial stage.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the Government is aware that the post office at Baripada was located in an old building lent by the former State of Mayurbhanj and if so, what use is being made of that and whether there is any proposal to build a house of its own to accommodate this Head Office there?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: Yes, it was located there and we are trying to fix the price for that building. But there is some dispute. In case favourable terms are offered, we shall do so.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether it is not a fact that the free use of the building as well as the land was given to the Department by the former State Government?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: I have no information on that.

*430. [Postponed to 15th September, 1958.]

DARJEELING-HIMALAYAN SECTION

*431. **SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the speed of the trains running on the Darjeeling-Himalayan Section; and

(b) whether Government propose to increase the speed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (**SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN**): (a) The maximum booked speed on the Section is 18 miles per hour between Siliguri Junction and Sukna and 11 miles per hour between Sukna and Darjeeling.

(b) No.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: May I know whether there is any

suggestion to increase the speed of the Darjeeling train by not stopping it in small stations?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: For the time being, there are only two trains in the up-direction and two in the down-direction. We have no intention of cutting down the stops.

DR. R. B. GOUR: There is only one train broken into two pieces. That is the position.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: If the mail train goes to Darjeeling without stopping at small stations and stopping only at main stations, that will increase the speed and save the time.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: We are actually trying another method for cutting down the time, that is, by introducing diesel locomotives on this section. I hope by the introduction of diesel locomotives, we will be able to cut down some time.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: May I know from when this diesel engine will be introduced on the Darjeeling railway?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: We have already tried one diesel locomotive on this section. We have worked out details and tenders are being called for shortly.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मिनिस्टर महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या आपके जेरे गौर कोई ऐसी स्कीम है जिससे हर कम्पार्टमेंट में यह मालूम हो सके कि ट्रेन किस स्पीड से जा रही है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : अभी कोई ऐसा इरादा नहीं है ।

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is it a fact that two men sit in front of the Darjeeling railway engine and go on putting sand on rails to stop the train from slipping down? If it is so, why is it not possible to devise some mechanical method by which it would not be necessary for two men to be continuously putting sand on the railway?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It is so, that two men have to keep on putting sand. The question of evolving some mechanical device is under consideration.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: May I know how long it has been under consideration?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Actually I toured over this section about a year ago. I came back and put forward this suggestion and since then it has been under consideration.

CENTRAL ALLOCATION FOR MINOR IRRIGATION

*432. **SHRI J. H. JOSHI:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the amount allotted to each State for minor irrigation purposes in the years 1957-58 and 1958-59?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Amounts allotted to States for Minor Irrigation Schemes including Tubewells during 1957-58 and 1958-59

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	1957-58	1958-59
Andhra Pradesh	93.79	117.14
Assam	58.00	35.69
Bihar	93.90	172.00
Bombay	255.88	326.56
Kerala	53.00	54.00
Madhya Pradesh	245.02	175.00
Madras	55.71	76.76
Mysore	102.47	93.57
Orissa	12.00	41.90
Punjab	157.15	120.00
Rajasthan	105.37	78.00
Uttar Pradesh	275.87	273.60
West Bengal	69.00	40.50
Jammu and Kashmir	44.37	29.00
Andamans
Delhi	6.91	5.30
Himachal Pradesh	29.50	20.00
Manipur
N.E.F.A.	0.26
Pondicherry	2.93
Tripura	0.97	..
TOTAL	1658.91	1661.31