

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) As a measure of war economy.

(b) There is no traffic justification for the re-introduction of the train.

PRODUCTION OF LONG STAPLE COTTON DURING CURRENT SEASON (1958-59)

*561. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total acreage of long staple cotton so far brought under cultivation during the current cotton season and how this figure compares with that of the previous year; and

(b) to what extent the production during the current season is expected to meet the country's requirements in long staple cotton?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The area brought under cultivation of long staple cotton during the current (1958-59) season is not yet available. During 1957-58 season, however, 8.01 million acres were under long staple cotton (7½" and above in staple length) against 8.05 million acres in the previous (1956-57) season, showing a decrease of about 1 per cent.

(b) It is too early to estimate the production of long staple cotton during the current (1958-59) season. The consumption by the Textile Mills of long staple cotton of indigenous production during 1957-58 season is estimated at 19.27 lakh bales as against the production of 19.82 lakh bales during that season. In addition the textile mills have consumed 5.73 lakh bales of foreign cotton, all of which are long staple cottons.

QUARTERS FOR THE STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, CUTTACK

*562. SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to construct quarters for the staff serving in the Office of the Regional Director, Posts and Telegraphs, Cuttack;

(b) if so, what is the amount sanctioned for this purpose; and

(c) what steps have so far been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. K. PATIL): (a) There is no such proposal at Cuttack.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has been decided to shift the office of the Director, Posts and Telegraphs, Orissa to Bhubaneswar. It is hence proposed to construct quarters for the staff of Circle office at Bhubaneswar. A plot of land is being acquired at Bhubaneswar.

FIXATION OF PRICE OF SUGAR FOR BOMBAY

*563. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which the price of sugar (ex-factory) for Bombay has been fixed at a higher figure than that for the northern regions; and

(b) the present monthly consumption of sugar in the State of Bombay?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) No ex-factory price of sugar has been fixed for factories in Bombay State. Government have, however, undertaken to supply sugar f.o.r. Bombay at Rs. 39.00 per maund after adding an average railway freight Rs. 3.00 per maund to the ex-factory