

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from the Pine-apple Canning Industry in Trichur for help; if so,—

(a) what is the nature of the help solicited; and

(b) what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): No, Sir.

(a) and (b). Do not arise.

FARM MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS
PRESENTED BY U.S.S.R.

*390. SHRI H. V. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer given to part (b) of Unstarred Question No. 64 in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th August, 1957, and state the reasons for not utilising so far 60 per cent. of the machinery and farm implements presented by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): For want of adequate irrigation facilities, the agricultural operations at the Farm have been confined to about 5,000 areas so far and the machinery is being used to the extent it is actually needed. It may also be mentioned that this farm has been functioning only for a year and is in its initial stage of development. The entire machinery is expected to be brought into use by 1959-60 when perennial irrigation water supply is likely to be available from the Bhakra Project and when the entire culturable area under the Farm is brought under cultivation.

CULTIVATION AT CENTRAL MECHANISED
FARM AT SURATGARH

*391. SHRI H. V. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land proposed to be cultivated at the Central Mechanised Farm, Suratgarh; and

(b) the area of land which it is proposed to bring under cultivation during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) 22,670 acres.

(b) About 7750 acres.

ALLEGED CORRUPTION AND MISMANAGEMENT IN SUGAR FACTORY IN ANDHRA PRADESH

*392. DR. R. B. GOUR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report alleging corruption and mismanagement in the Nizam Sugar Factory in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so whether Government propose to take any action under Section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the Andhra Pradesh Government own about 72 per cent of the Share Capital the complaints have been referred to them for investigation and necessary action. It is premature to consider any action by the Government of India under Section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act.

FLAG STATIONS OR HALTS ON NORTHERN
RAILWAY

*393. SHRI JAINARAIN VYAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any flag stations or halts on the Northern Railway where booking of tickets is done on commission basis;

(b) if so, what is the number of such stations or halts; and

(c) what is the rate of commission given to extra departmental personnel for tickets sold at those stations or halts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN)
(a) and (b) 9 halt stations

(c) 6½ per cent of the sale proceeds of tickets

CLOSING DOWN OF SAWMILL IN ANDAMANS

*394 SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK
Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chatham Sawmill in the Andamans is being closed, resulting in about 200 workers being thrown out of employment and if so, what are the reasons for the closure of the mill, and

(b) how far the closure of this mill is likely to affect the estimated annual production of timber from Andaman forests?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A P JAIN)

(a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

NEW TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN DELHI

*395 SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD
Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of applications for new telephone connections are lying undisposed of for several months in Delhi,

(b) whether it is a fact that many applicants want these connections under the "Own Your Telephone" scheme, and

(c) what are the reasons for not granting these connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir

(c) The installation of additional equipment and cables for meeting the

telephone demand in Delhi is in progress and additional connections will be given progressively as these installations are completed

OPERATION OF CLOSED SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS

*396 SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD.
Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the post offices treat as closed those Savings Bank Accounts, which are not operated upon for three years,

(b) whether it is a fact that it takes several months in correspondence with post offices to seek permission to get such closed accounts again put into operation, and

(c) whether Government propose to remove this hardship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR) (a) and (b) No, Sir Only such post office Savings Bank accounts as show no transactions for six years are treated as 'dead accounts' They are however allowed to be reopened immediately at the counter of a Head Post Office provided an application for the purpose, is made within 5 years of the date on which the account was treated as dead' It is only when application is made after a lapse of five years that previous orders of the Audit Office are obtained but such cases are rare

(c) Does not arise

PROPOSAL TO SHIFT OFFICES OF CENTRAL ARECANUT COMMITTEE

*397 SHRI A V KUNHAMBUR
Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is proposed to shift the offices of the Central Arecanut Committee from its present location at Kozhikode, and

(b) if so, the reasons for shifting it?