

Power Station at Gaya for the past one year and if so, whether it has now been linked up directly with the main grid system of Damodar Valley Corporation; and

(c) the time by which full quantity of power will be supplied to Gaya?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI S. K. PATIL): (a) The D.V.C. has been supplying power to the Government of Bihar at Gaya since the 17th May, 1956.

(b) No, Sir. The full amount of power asked for was being supplied at Gaya from the main grid system of D.V.C. comprising the Bokaro Thermal Power Station and Tilaiya Hydro-Electric Station from the date of commencement of supply.

(c) Does not arise.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT TELEGRAPHIC CONNECTION BETWEEN TRIVANDRUM AND KOZHIKODE

*62. SHRI A. V. KUNHAMBUR: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to establish direct telegraphic connection between Trivandrum and Kozhikode;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Post Master General, Madras received complaints about delay in telegrams sent from Trivandrum to Kozhikode; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Proposal has been initiated.

(b) One complaint had been received.

(c) (1). Orders have been issued to transmit the telegrams via Madras in case of interruption on the normal route.

(2) The proposal of introducing a direct circuit between Kozhikode and Trivandrum is being examined.

PEPPER CULTIVATION

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of pepper in the country is decreasing year by year;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to improve pepper cultivation; and

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to open a pepper research station at Payyanur?

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

(a) No.

(b) The following steps are being taken to further increase its production:

(i) Research stations are being set up.

(ii) Development schemes are being sanctioned to increase production by intensive as well as extensive methods of cultivation.

(iii) Nurseries for production and supply of high-quality planting material are being set up.

(c) No; because there is already a Research station at Panniyur near Taliparamba.

FAMILY PLANNING CENTRES IN C.D. AND N.E.S. BLOCKS

*64. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present number of family planning centres working in the Community Project Areas and National Extension Service Blocks; and

(b) what amount has been allotted for this work for the year 1957-58?