

(b) what has been the result of the experiment made by the Committee in growing this variety of cotton in Bombay?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) The Committee are already financing one scheme for breeding of American Cotton in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The work conducted under the scheme in Bombay has resulted in the isolation of superior long staple cottons, viz., 170-C02, 134-C02-M and Buri 0394. The area and production of long staple cotton have also considerably increased as will be shown by the following figures:—

	1945-46	1953-54
Area	8,23,000 acres	16,12,000 acres.
Production	1,03,000 bales	3,77,000 bales.

AIR-STRIPS FOR KULU AND KANGRA VALLEYS

*90. SHRI T. BODRA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct any air strips in the Kulu and the Kangra valleys;

(b) if so, when they are to be constructed; and

(c) what is the estimated cost of the proposed construction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The proposal is in the exploratory stage at present and it will be necessary to carry out a detailed survey of the possible sites in the area before a decision could be taken. It is therefore not possible to indicate now when the works would be completed or what would be their estimated cost.

CONSTRUCTION OF AERODROMES

*91. SHM T. BODRA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the expenditure so

far incurred under the First Five Year Plan on the construction of new aerodromes and air strips?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Rs. 15-58 lakhs.

RADIO TELEPHONE SERVICE

»92. SHRI T. BODRA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the total amount spent on equipment for new radio telephone services which were opened between India and foreign countries during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): During the last three years Rs. 3,57,000 roughly have been spent on equipment for the new radio telephone services.

ALL INDIA TRIBUNAL FOR INSURANCE INDUSTRY

*94. SHRI N. PRASADARAO: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have advised the insurance employees in their dispute with the insurance companies not to press for the appointment of an All India Tribunal;

(b) whether the insurance employees have given notice of a token strike; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to avoid a strike?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) No such advice has been given. Government have, however, announced their decision that they do not consider it necessary to set up an all India Tribunal for insurance industry.

(b) No strike notice has been received; a resolution passed by the working committee of the All India Insurance Employees' Association, calling upon the insurance employees to observe a one-day token strike, has, however, been received.