

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) and (b). The reply is in the affirmative.

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR : May I know how much is being spent on this project and when will it be completed ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : A sum of Rs. 50,000 is proposed to be spent during 1953-54. The estimated cost of the work is Rs. 9.5 lakhs. When it will be completed, I cannot say just at present.

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR : Am I to understand that this amount of Rs. 50,000 has already been allotted to be spent during the current financial year ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : In 1953-54.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question time is over. I have also no questions left.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IMPORT OF POTATOES

49. SHRI C. L. VARMA : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that potatoes are imported from foreign countries ; if so, from which countries and what are the quantities of (i) seed potatoes and (ii) table potatoes so imported ;

(b) what is the total annual requirement of potatoes in India and what is her total annual production ; and

(c) whether Government have considered the desirability of restricting the import of potatoes from other countries ?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH) :

(a) Imports of only seed potatoes are being permitted at present, those of table potatoes being generally prohibited. A statement showing the

available information regarding countries and quantities of imports is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 73.]

(b) Actual requirements of potatoes in the country vary according to prices. In 1951-52 the all-India production amounted to 17 lakh tons as against 13 lakh tons in 1948-49. Available supplies are sufficient for meeting the present requirements of the country.

(c) Yes. Government of India are already taking steps for increasing the production in the country by (i) evolution of improved varieties, (ii) determination of optimum conditions of cultivation and manuring, and (iii) devising suitable measures for controlling major pests and diseases. Recently, a Coordinated Scheme for Applied Research and Development on potatoes under the control of the Central Potato Research Institute has also been sanctioned. This scheme is closely integrated with the schemes of Multiplication of Disease-free Seed Potatoes in the producing States.

#### TRADE UNIONS

50. SHRI S. BANERJEE : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unions affiliated to the All India Trade Union Congress, United Trade Union Congress, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, and Indian National Trade Union Congress, statewise respectively ;

(b) the number of unions not affiliated to any of the four central trade union organisations mentioned above ;

(c) the total number of members of the unions affiliated to the All India Trade Union Congress, United Trade Union Congress, Hind Mazdoor Sabha and Indian National Trade Union Congress statewise respectively ;

(d) the total number of members of unions industry-wise affiliated to the All India Trade Union Congress, United Trade Union Congress, Hind