

Surplus Rice in Andhra

*60. Shri Assar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an excess stock of ten lakhs of tons of rice in Andhra State;

(b) whether that stock has not been removed to rice shortage areas uptil now,

(c) whether any efforts were made to get bogies; and

(d) if so, what was the result?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The present estimate is that surplus now left in Andhra is of the order of 6 lakh tons.

(b) to (d) Under conditions of de-control, rice moves on trade account upto about the middle of April '57 the demand from trade for wagons was very small and the outstanding indents were negligible. From about 20th April there was a sudden heavy demand for wagons and outstandings increased. As a result of special measures taken by the Railways the loading stepped up appreciably and there has been a substantial fall in the outstanding indents.

Overcrowding in Third Class Compartments

*61. Shri R. J. Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the continued overcrowding of passengers in Third Class compartments on South Eastern Railway; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to relieve such overcrowding?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Some overcrowding is noticed on the sub-urban local trains and on certain other main line trains on the South Eastern Railway during the busy

season generally—which is roughly from November to May each year.

(b) The S. E. Railway have recently provided additional train room on a number of trains by attaching extra carriages

The S. E. Railway are also further examining the feasibility of augmenting train accommodation on trains wherever required, consistently with the availability of coaching stock.

Book on Indian Soil Management

*62. Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council of Agricultural Research is preparing a book named 'New Text Book on Indian Soil Management', through the help of Dr. Roy L. Donahue, soil specialist at Hyderabad,

(b) if so, whether that book will be useful throughout India; and

(c) the period within which the book will be published?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) At the instance of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Dr. R. L. Donahue, in collaboration with Indian authors, has agreed to write a text-book on Soil Science and Soil Management for the use of under-graduate students in Agricultural Colleges in India. The exact title of the book has not yet been decided.

(b) Yes

(c) About 18 months

Spices Enquiry Committee

*63. Shri Maniyangadan: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the study of the report and recommendations of the Spices Enquiry Committee;