

Shri S. K. Patil: It is a suggestion for action; we shall bear it in mind.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether the Central Government has any hand in regulating the price that will be charged to the consumers after it is taken from the Damodar Valley Corporation?

Shri S. K. Patil: Yes, Sir; these charges are governed by the Electricity Act, and they cannot make more than per cent per

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know, Sir, why Government can't supply Calcutta from D.V.C. from its own sub-station rather than through the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation and thereby save the middleman's profit?

Shri S. K. Patil: For that I will require notice.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the Minister having told us two days ago that the provision of electrification in rural areas is very meagre, will he please tell us what provision is being made by the D.V.C. for provision of electricity to the rural areas in Bihar and West Bengal, as well as for ancillary industries essential to such provision?

Shri S. K. Patil: The D.V.C. supplies in bulk to the State, then it is for the State to make arrangements for the rural supply. We have got a programme for the next five or six years under which they will get quite a lot of electricity. But, as to the needs of the rural areas they are more the concern of the State Government.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if any attempt has been made to see that the D.V.C. electricity is distributed through the State Electricity Board rather than through some commercial firm?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): In Bengal the State Electricity Board is being formed, and it will be the concern of

the Board to regulate the power supply.

Shri Palaniandi: Sir, the distributor who purchases current from the Government is selling it to the consumer at a high price whereby he mints money. May I know why the Government can't take the initiative and distribute the current themselves?

Mr. Speaker: He has already answered that point.

Shri S. K. Patil: I have already answered that. The distributors cannot make more than a particular percentage of profit. If in any case more profit is made that may be brought to our notice.

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Deputy Minister has said that the Bengal State Electricity Board is being formed. Would he please enquire if the State Electricity Board has already been in existence for at least more than a year?

Shri Hathi: So far as the plan for rural electrification and the taking over of companies is concerned, that is yet in the processing stage.

लम्बे रेशे वाली कपास

२८६. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या लघु तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि विदेशों से लम्बे रेशे की कपास खरीदने में भारत की विदेशी मुद्रा को खर्च होने से बचाने के लिए सरकार भारत में उसके उत्पादन के बारे में कौन सी योजना बना रही है !

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): The Government of India have sanctioned a Coordinated Sea-Island Cotton Scheme in the States of Kerala, Mysore and Asam for a period of five years beginning from May 1957, at cost of Rs. 6 lakhs. The objects of the scheme are:

- (1) To survey areas suitable for cultivation of Sea Island cotton in the three States;

- (2) To cultivate Sea-Island variety "Andrews" in an area of 3 lakh acres to produce about 2.25 lakh bales of staple cotton;
- (3) To improve the fibre strength and ginning percentage of "Andrews" by selection and make the cotton more remunerative and suitable for spinning 80's counts;
- (4) To conduct agronomic research to improve the yield and quality of "Andrews" in all the three States;
- (5) To arrange for ginning and marketing of the produce.

Shri Raghunath Singh: What is the amount in rupees does the foreign cotton that we are importing now come to? What is the value?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We expect, by these schemes, to get bales of cotton worth about Rs. 30-38 crores so that we will be gaining foreign exchange to that extent.

Shri Subbiah Ambalam: May I know if there is any provision in this scheme to grant subsidy or grants to grow long staple cotton in India?

Shri A. M. Thomas: According to this scheme, what is undertaken is, to survey areas suitable for cultivation of Sea Island cotton, to improve the fibre strength and ginning percentage of "Andrews", to conduct agronomic research to improve the yield, etc. There is no specific scheme to give subsidy.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): In fact, there is hardly any need for subsidy, because this variety of cotton will give a profit of about Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per acre to the farmer.

Shri Mohamed Imam: How many acres of long staple cotton are there in the State of Mysore?

Shri A. M. Thomas: 1,18,000 acres.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I find from the *Agricultural Situation in India* that the estimates for cotton are not made by Government but by firms like Volkart and Rally Brothers. I want to know whether the Government have any machinery to determine the exact requirements of long staple cotton and also other varieties of cotton.

Shri A. M. Thomas: We have information regarding the requirements of long-staple cotton in our country.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether any subsidy or grant has been given to the Punjab Government for research in cotton especially of more than 1" length?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The main question relates to Sea Island cotton. My friend's question does not relate to it.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know what amount has been allocated to the State of Kerala for the experimentation, out of the total amount allotted to the State of Kerala for the experimentation, out of the total amount allotted for this purpose, and what is the machinery to utilise this amount for the experimentation?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Now, a sum of Rs. 1,24,000 has been allocated to be spent in 1957-58 in these three States, and the major portion of the amount will be spent in Kerala.

Kotah-Ajmer Rail Link

Pandit M. B. Bhargava:

*287. } **Shri H. C. Sharma:**
 } **Shri Onkar Lal:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1087 on the 21st December, 1955 and state:

(a) whether the Traffic and Engineering Survey Reports in respect to Kotah-Ajmer Rail link have been received and considered by the Railway Board;