

(d) No rice was supplied to Travancore-Cochin from U. P. during 1951-52 season. Supplies from Madhya Pradesh are being made from March, 1952 for which the Madhya Pradesh Government will charge the F.O.R. price of Rs. 15/14/3 to Rs. 16/1/6 for Coarse I variety and Rs. 15/2/3 to Rs. 15/5/6 for Coarse II variety.

ALLOTMENT OF FOODGRAINS IN STATES

***148. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the basis on which foodgrains are allotted to the various States?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Allocations under the Basic Plan are made on the basis of relative needs of States for meeting Government distribution responsibilities and the available supply in the Central Pool. The relative needs are determined after taking into account the estimated production, likely procurement, current stocks with the State Government and estimated offtakes.

GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, JHANSI

***149. Shri Dhulekar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take over fully the management of the Government Technical Institute, Jhansi, attached to the Railway Workshops, Jhansi, from the hands of the Uttar Pradesh Government;

(b) whether Government also propose to develop and enlarge the said Institute; and

(c) if so, the manner in which this is proposed to be done?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The Government Technical School at Jhansi is not attached to the Railway Workshops, Jhansi, but is owned, financed and run by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Government of India has at present no intention of taking it over.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

AGRICULTURAL AIRCRAFT

***150. Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the new Agricultural Aircraft recently built for aerial application of agricultural chemicals?

(b) Is any attempt being made to manufacture the same in India to help the food production?

48 PSD

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) I am not aware of any special agricultural aircraft recently built for aerial application of agricultural chemicals. My information is that some of the usual types of aeroplanes are used for anti-pest spraying and for sowing in countries like the U.S.A.

(b) Does not arise.

FOREIGN PLANTATIONS

***151. Shri Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of plantations belonging to foreigners in India;

(b) the total acreage and value of these plantations; and

(c) the number of labourers employed?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). The information is not readily available. It will be laid on the Table when collected. The hon. Member is referred to "Census of India's foreign Liabilities and Assets" published by the Reserve Bank of India for valuation of coffee and tea plantations.

FOOD SUBSIDY

***152. Shri Heda:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state if the State Governments have protested against the Central Government's decision to stop the food subsidies?

(b) What are those States that have supported the step?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). The position regarding subsidy was explained to the State Government representatives who attended the Food Minister's Conference held in February 1952 and the consensus of opinion was that there was no help against the withdrawal of subsidy. The question of protest against or support for the Government of India's decision therefore does not arise.

BHAGALPUR MANDAR HILL BRANCH LINE SERVICE

***153. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any progress has been made towards resuming the Bhagalpur Mandar Hill Branch Line service in Bihar?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The restoration of Bhagalpur Mandar Hill