

(b) what is the amount of compensation paid to the owners of land?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 92 acres.

(b) Rs. 1,55,000 approximately.

SUGAR CONSUMPTION

201. Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the consumption of sugar had increased during the period from the 1st April to the 30th September, 1954 as compared to that in the corresponding period of the last year?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Yes. The off-take of indigenous sugar from mills and of imported sugar from ports during the period from 1st April, to 30th September, 1954, was about 56,000 tons more than that in the corresponding period of the previous year.

TUBE-WELLS IN ORISSA

202. Shri Sarangadhar Das: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tube-wells to be sunk in Orissa State during 1954-55;

(b) the total amount allotted for this purpose; and

(c) how much amount has already been spent?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) None.

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

JUTE CULTIVATION IN ORISSA

203. Shri Sarangadhar Das: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the average yield of Jute per acre in Orissa state in 1953-54;

(b) whether the yield is on the increase as compared with the figures of 1951-52 and 1952-53;

(c) whether there is any improvement in quality over the previous years; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the quality?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) About 2.20 bales per acre.

(b) No.

(c) Not yet.

(d) The State Government are taking the following steps for improving the quality of jute:—

1. Distribution of jute seeds of improved strains.

2. Construction of retting tanks.

3. Introduction of improved methods of jute cultivation (such as line-sowing and weeding by seed-drills and wheel-hoes) and improved methods of retting, extraction and preparation of fibre.

CONFERENCE ON ROAD TRANSPORT ORGANISATION

204. Shri Magan Lal Bagdi: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which were represented at the Conference of the Heads of State Transport undertakings held at Hyderabad on the 18th and 19th October, 1954; and

(b) the decisions taken at the Conference?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) All Part A and B States, excepting Andhra and Assam, the State of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir were represented at the Conference.

(b) The Conference considered a large number of problems connected with day to day operation and relations with labour. The proceedings of the Conference will be placed in the Library of Parliament as soon as they are finalised.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES

205. Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state: