

matter on receipt of their report and in the light of the views that have been or are being expressed by different interests.

Potatoes

1736. Shrimati Masida Ahmed: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that about 1800 maunds of potatoes preserved in Kanahatshal cold storage maintained by DVC were damaged;

(b) the loss of amount involved thereby,

(c) whether the responsibility could be fixed for the damage, and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The quantity of potatoes that got damaged was about 700 maunds only and not 1800 maunds

(b) The value of the damaged seed potatoes, on the basis of sale price at storage time is about Rs 6,000 Under the terms and conditions of storage, the Damodar Valley Corporation are not liable for any loss or damage

(c) The damage was due to sprouting of the potatoes. The causes that led to the sprouting are not clearly known though interruption and temporary failure of power supply by the West Bengal State Electricity Board over which the Damodar Valley Corporation has no control may be one of the reasons for sprouting

(d) Does not arise

Tourist Lodge at Gauhati

1737. Shrimati Masida Ahmed: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a scheme to construct a tourist lodge at Gauhati (Assam),

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether financial sanction has been accorded, and

(d) if so, when the project is likely to be started?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (d) The Second Five Year Plan for tourism contains schemes for the construction of two Rest Houses for the use of tourists at Gauhati, one of the standard suitable for foreign and upper class Indian Tourists estimated to cost about Rs 2 50 lakhs and to be financed entirely by the Central Government, the other for low and middle income group Indian Tourists estimated to cost about Rs 1 66 lakhs to be financed jointly by the Central and State Governments in equal proportion. For the latter the State Government have already issued the financial sanction and the work is in progress. The need for putting up the former during the current Plan Period is being reviewed in the light of the curtailment of the allotment for the Central Sector of tourist plan from Rs 2 00 crores to Rs 110 lakhs and the number of foreign tourists at present visiting or likely to visit Gauhati in the near future

Report of Educational Advisers on Railway Schools

1738. Shri P G Deb: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the report of the Educational Advisers appointed by the Railway Board in July, 1956 for surveying of school facilities and standards adopted for children of Railway employees, and

(b) the Government's decision thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b) A statement showing the more important recommendations made by the Educational Advisers and the Government's decisions thereon is laid on the Table. [See Appendix IV, annexure No 67]