

for the welfare of the labour in particular ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) The amount of cess collected from the Nilgiri district in Tamil Nadu is given below :

1968-69	Rs. 12,24,566
1969-70	Rs. 13,72,713
1970-71	Rs. 13,84,752

(b) Cess on Tea is collected by Central Excise Department and proceeds thereof are credited to consolidated Fund of India after deducting collection charges at the rate of half per cent. Thereafter Central Government releases such sums of money as it thinks fit with a view to enabling Tea Board to meet expenses incurred by them for carrying out functions enumerated in the Tea Act.

(c) and (d). In keeping with functions of the Board as enumerated in the Tea Act procedures have been laid down in the Tea Rules 1954 for submission of Budget Estimates under various stipulated heads of expenditure like tea development, promotion of tea in India and abroad, research, labour welfare etc. Funds are allocated on the basis of the overall needs of the Tea Board in relation to priority of different aspects of tea industry requiring immediate attention including labour welfare measures not covered by Plantation Labour Act.

New Building for P. and T. Head Office at Irinjalakkuda (Kerala)

2893. **SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute lack of space in the present Posts and Telegraphs Head Office Irinjalakkuda, Kerala ;

(b) whether a plan for construction of new building was finalised by the Central Architect years back ; and

(c) the reasons for delay in the construction of new building ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) Yes. A portion of the post office has

therefore been shifted to a nearby building which was taken on rent in 1969 in an attempt to solve this problem. The present shortage is about 1100 sq ft.

(b) Only a rough layout plan showing the proposed extension of the building on the site has been received from the Architect in January, 1970 by the Postmaster General, Trivandrum. Detailed plans and preliminary drawings are still under preparation.

(c) The delay is due to several projects having to be attended to at the same time. This project has, however, been given a higher priority and is being expedited.

Export of Agar from Manipur

2894. **SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned annually from the sale of Manipur Agar to foreign countries ;

(b) the countries buying Agar from Manipur ; and

(c) the agencies appointed for such trade ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). State-wise Export Statistics are not maintained.

Song and Drama Division Unit Imphal

2895. **SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Imphal Unit of the Song and Drama Division of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry has been equipped with a full-fledged Drama Troupe ;

(b) if so, since when and the strength and paraphernalia thereof ; and

(c) if not, when such a troupe is likely to be introduced ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) to (c). The Imphal Unit of Song and Drama Division is established under Border Publicity Scheme which gives