

per cent of the emoluments, and also for the periods for which quarters, are likely to lie vacant.

The above-mentioned basis of working out the assessed rent has been revised with reference to the observations of the Convention Committee and the Public Accounts Committee and the recommendations of the Second Pay Commission. Now the average assessed rent for all quarters is calculated category-wise on the basis of 6 per cent of the capital cost of the quarters in each category. The change-over has been brought about in two stages, viz.

(i) the rent of each individual quarter was increased with effect from 1-10-1960 on an *ad hoc* basis by 25 per cent in respect of quarters, rents of which had been assessed at less than 5 per cent of the capital cost; and

(ii) the rent of all quarters reassessed at 6 per cent of the capital cost as on 30th September, 1960 and the rents so assessed charged with effect from 1-10-1961.

Recovery of rent is, however, limited to 10 per cent of emoluments and in the case of staff drawing below Rs. 150 per month in the authorised scales of pay, it has been reduced to 7½ per cent of emoluments.

Irrigation Projects

2214. **Shri K. L. Rao:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey of the irrigation projects in the country costing between Rs. one lakh to Rs. ten lakhs each has been conducted;

(b) if so, whether a list together with benefits and approximate costs thereof will be laid on the Table; and

(c) the amount of money spent on such projects in First and Second Five Year Plans and its provision in Third Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas):

(a) to (c). The required information is being collected from the State Governments and Union Territories and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as received.

Sea Erosion in Kerala

2215. **Shri Ravindra Varma:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that considerable damage has been done to the National Highway in Kerala and breaches made on the Highway between Quilon and Alleppey as a result of the inroads made by the sea on the 12th and 13th of April and that thousands of fishermen who live along the sea coast in this region have been rendered homeless;

(b) whether he will lay on the Table a statement giving the nature and extent of the damage to the Highway and the number of people who have been rendered homeless;

(c) what measures have been undertaken to render relief to the victims of the calamity; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to prevent further erosion and inroads by the sea in this region?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (d). According to the report received from the Government of Kerala, the position is as follows:

The sea shore at Thottappally and Purakkad area in the Alleppey District was badly affected by erosion on 12th April 1962 and 13th April 1962. The action of the waves was extraordinarily ferocious and unprecedented. The sea shore for a length of about 3 miles north of Thottappally Spillway mouth up to 4¼ of National Highway was affected by sea erosion. Sea also made an encroachment for about 50 ft. to 100 ft ex-

cepting the portion protected by groynes. There was overflow of sea water also in miles 38/8 to 41/2 and the depth of flow was about 1½ ft. in the deepest position i.e., in miles 38/8 to 39/2. The seven groynes already constructed at Purakkad and four groynes under construction were badly affected by wave action and were completely submerged. Of the 7 old groynes at Purakkad one was completely washed off and the others badly affected. Rectification work of the groynes was carried out ungently. Consequent on the erosion at Thottapally and Purakkad, 37 houses were submerged and two country boats destroyed. 44 coconut trees were also uprooted. The total estimated damage on this account was reported to be Rs. 5160.

2. As regards relief measures, the State Government have taken necessary action. Rice and tapioca were distributed to the fishermen affected by the sea erosion. Urgent steps were also taken by the State Government to distribute cash to the fishermen in coastal areas for thatching and repairing their houses.

Charges for meals in restaurant cars and Station Restaurants

2216. Shri Subodh Hansda: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the charges for same kind of meals supplied in Restaurant Cars and Station restaurants varies from Zone to Zone;

(b) if so, the reasons for this anomaly; and

(c) whether Government intends to remove this type of anomaly?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). The menu and the rates for Indian style meals (vegetarian and non-vegetarian) have been standardized and the same schedule of charges is levied on all Railways

other than Southern. For the Southern Railway, the menu being different, a different and lower rate has been prescribed. These rates are chargeable for meals served in the Refreshment Rooms/Restaurants at stations:

The standardized rates in force at present are:—

| | Southern Railway | Other Railways |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | NP | Np |
| Vegetarian meals | 0.75 | 0.87 |
| Non-vegetarian meals. | 1.00 | 1.12 |

When meals are served in train compartments from Restaurants/Refreshment Rooms at stations, an additional charge of 0.15 nP. per meal over and above the standardized rate is levied. For meals served in or from Dining cars on trains, an additional charge of 0.25 nP. over and above the standardized rate is levied.

Banning of Vanaspati in Delhi

2217. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether attempts are being made in the Delhi Corporation to ban the sale of Vanaspati in its jurisdiction; and

(b) whether Government propose to agree to the suggestion in view of the widespread demand of the people?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhas Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.