

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The junction at Nagpur, under the present system of Night Air Services, is highly vulnerable, any delay on one sector affecting all the three others. The new pattern will remove this snag and at the same time provide direct connections between Delhi-Bombay, Bombay-Madras, Madras-Calcutta and Calcutta-Delhi.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) From 1st October, 1962.

Retirement Passes

*474. **Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the length of service which an Officer/subordinate employee has to put in for the grant of Retirement passes; and

(b) whether this concession is also admissible to those Railway Officers who are on deputation or while on deputation are confirmed in those Departments?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):

(a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure 8].

Nursing Home Charges

1090. **Shri Bishwanath Roy:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the exorbitant charges of the Nursing Homes in the hospitals managed by the Central Government, whether any proposal is under consideration for reducing the rates of the nursing homes; and

(b) if so, when implementation of the same is expected to start?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) The question of reducing the rates is under consideration.

(b) As soon as a decision is taken in the matter.

Food Production

1091. **Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) with the appreciable increase in the production of foodgrains, as has been reported at the close of the Second Five Year Plan, how much of this increased production is offset by the increase in population year after year; and

(b) how soon and in what manner the country is going to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains in these circumstances?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) The production of foodgrains during the first two Plans had increased by 35 per cent out of which about 21.4 per cent was offset by increase in population.

(b) A target of 100 million tons of foodgrains production has been fixed in the Third Plan keeping in view increase in population of 12.3 per cent over the five year period and increase in per capita availability from 16:0 oz. in 1960-61 to 17.5 oz. per day in 1965-66. It is hoped that with the attainment of this target, the country may become self-sufficient in foodgrains at the end of the Third Plan period.

Coastal Shipping

1092. **Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what is the tonnage in shipping owned and manned by Indians that is engaging itself in carrying cargo round the coastal line of the country; and

(b) whether the additions made in this tonnage, in the last two Plan periods, have been able to handle the increasing trade?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communica-