

Plant Quarantine Station

*1044. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the strength of each Plant Quarantine Station established in the country, and

(b) the nature and extent of work that they have undertaken so far?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix III, annexure No 60]

Shri Shree Narayan Das: From the statement it appears that from 1952 to 1956, 790 consignments of plants were inspected. May I know the amount of fee collected from the private individuals for this?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I require notice

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether any fee is charged from private individuals for the import of plants from other countries and, if so, the fee charged?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: In some cases the fee is charged

Mileage Allowance for Firemen on S. Railway

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*1045. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the recently announced enhanced rates of mileage have been granted to Drivers and Guards in Olavakkot Division of Southern Railway while it has been denied to Firemen of the same Division,

(b) whether it is also a fact that the enhanced rates have been implemented in the case of Firemen in other Divisions on other Railways, and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for withholding the same to Firemen in Olavakkot Division?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The enhanced rates of mileage allowance have been fully implemented in the case of Drivers and Guards but not in the case of all Firemen

(b) The enhanced rates have not yet been implemented everywhere

(c) The distribution of posts of Firemen in the Olavakkot Division in the scales sanctioned on the recommendation of the Joint Advisory Committee has not yet been finalised. Payment at enhanced rates can be made only when the cadre is finalised

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know why the enhanced rates have been implemented in some places and not implemented in some other places?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The Joint Advisory Committee made certain recommendations. We are trying to implement the recommendations of that Committee. The delay is great. We are aware that it is rather a regrettable thing and we are taking every possible step to expedite the thing.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know the time within which the recommendations of the Joint Advisory Committee will be implemented?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We hope to implement it in the very near future. We are following up the matter and I hope it won't take a long time.

Shri B. S. Murthy: The driver has been given this allowance and not his assistant, the fireman. May I know what are the reasons for denying this category of workers the allowances?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: As I just explained, they were put on different grades of pay previously. Then the Joint Advisory Committee recommended different sets of grades of pay. Because the number of firemen is lar-

ger, there has been some delay We are doing our best to finalise the thing as early as possible

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it not a fact that the Joint Advisory Committee has given power to the authorities, to the Railway Board, to take up the case as an when necessary? Once the case of drivers was taken up, why the case of firemen was not taken up?

Shri Ranga: Their work is more arduous.

Mr. Speaker: They say they are taking steps But it takes time

Shri Shah nawaz Khan: These cases are being finalized They have been finalised in all the railways except the two, where we hope to finalize them very very early.

Shri A. K. Gopalan May I know whether it is a fact that the chances of promotion as shunters and drivers are now less than before in view of the fact that direct recruitment is taking place for those cadres?

Shri Shah nawaz Khan: No Sir I do not think that the chances are less than they were before I don't think so

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In view of the fact that the Joint Advisory Committee's recommendations were made in 1949, may I know whether all these railway employees will be entitled to retrospective effect, as and when these recommendations are implemented?

Shri Shah nawaz Khan: These revised rates are admissible with effect from 1st April 1956

Epidemiological Studies

*1046. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state

(a) what special steps have been taken to implement the results obtained from the researches conducted on the projects of "Epidemiological Studies in Cholera" in West Bengal and "Special Research in Tuberculosis"; and

(b) how far the Indian Medical Council has helped in the matter?

The Minister of Health (**Shri Karmarkar**): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 61].

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the statement I find that Singur area was selected for study. May I know why Midnapur, 24 Parganas or Howrah not taken into consideration, especially when the WHO study group has declared these areas to be the worst affected areas?

Shri Karmarkar: These epidemiological studies are a sort of test studies and the results obtained in these studies are supplied to other areas which are suffering from particular epidemics In this particular case we had to choose a centre and we selected Singur because there are certain facilities there

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the statement I find that epidemiological studies and schemes have been taken up for fighting cholera May I know whether the worst affected areas will also be taken into consideration as I find that less affected areas have been given priority?

Shri Karmarkar: I shall send the suggestion to the West Bengal Government so that when they make a recommendation next time they might give due importance to this

New Railway Lines in Punjab

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*1045. { **Shri Bahadur Singh:**
Shri Ram Krishan:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 819 on the 11th December, 1956 and state

(a) whether the Traffic Survey of a new railway line connecting Rupar-Ludhiana, Jagadhri-Chandigarh has been completed,

(b) if not, the approximate time that the survey will take;