

(b) whether the contents of the wagon had been inspected before despatch or at the time of loading;

(c) whether the loading and unloading of this wagon was done away from the goods-shed, as per rules;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) who were the consigners and consignees of this wagon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) According to railway records the wagon contained only consignments of fireworks. The Inspector of Explosives, Calcutta, however, is examining the matter further.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 139.]

Calcutta Port

*1320. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that partially due to the necessity of discharging cargo into boats owing to the shortage of wharves, the cost per ton of cargo in Calcutta is now higher than generally in foreign ports?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): When there is congestion in a port, it is usual for owners or agents of ships to arrange for discharge of cargo into lighters in order to reduce detention to ships. The cargo discharged by this method necessarily incurs additional handling charge. Complaints have been received from shipping interests that in the present congested condition at Calcutta the cost of handling a ton of cargo discharged by lighters is perhaps higher than in most foreign ports. It is expected that the situation will be improved by October this year.

Seizure of Foodgrain Stocks

*1321. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri N. R. Munisamy:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have been authorised so far by the Central Government to seize stocks of foodgrains in their respective area;

(b) the extent to which such States have so far seized foodgrains from hoarders in their areas;

(c) whether the Central Government have so far exercised their powers of such seizure at any place; and

(d) if so, the place, number and extent of such seizures of foodgrains?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). All the State Governments except Kerala and Jammu & Kashmir and the administrations of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura have been authorised to requisition stocks of paddy and rice under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. No State Government or Administration have, however, exercised these powers, so far.

(c) and (d). The Central Government have started requisitioning gram in five markets in Shri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan and rice in Krishna, West Godavari and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh. So far 5500 tons of gram and 4595 tons of rice have been requisitioned.

State Tourist Advisory Committees

Shri Hem Raj:
*1322. { **Shri Daljit Singh:**
Shri Padam Dev:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) which of the State Governments have constituted their State Tourist Advisory Committees and local committees; and

(b) the method adopted for constituting them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) and (b). [A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 140]

Rice Situation in Orissa

*1323. { Shri Sanganna:
Shri P. K. Dev:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drought condition in the State of Orissa has upset the entire food position of the State;

(b) the quota of rice fixed for export outside Orissa by the Government of India; and

(c) whether in view of drought conditions the export of rice from Orissa will be stopped?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). No export on trade account is now permitted except to the extent necessary to honour Orissa Government's commitments in this regard before the imposition of the ban by the Government of India on 6th June, 1957. It has been agreed that if suitable storage accommodation is available for opening one or two Central storage depots or if the Orissa Government wish to retain on their account under their own arrangements, a portion if the purchases now being made by the Central Government would be left in Orissa to meet possible future needs of Orissa.

Food Situation in Manipur

*1324. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an acute scarcity of food-grains in 19 tribal villages in the Jiribam sub-division of Manipur for the last 3 months;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 5000 tribal people have been affected by the famine conditions prevailing in those areas and they are living on roots and leaves and epidem-

mic diseases have broken out as a result of under-nourishment; and

(c) if so, what special steps have been taken by Government to relieve the suffering of the people, in view of the fact that there is no land route to rush food-stuffs from Imphal by motor to these remote hill areas?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Reports were received from a few Villages in Jiribam Sub-Division referring to low yield of last harvest and local scarcity of foodgrains.

(b) The total population in the villages affected is about 2,000. No epidemic has been reported. Roots and leaves presumably refer to yams and greens which normally form part of tribal diet, when available.

(c) Rice is being offered by Government from Godowns at Silchar. Footpaths maintained by Government are available for carrying headloads to Jiribam Sub-Division, and are used by the tribal people for the purpose.

Underground Road below Railway Track at Anantapur

992. Shri Nagi Reddy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the construction of an underground road under the Railway Track passing through Anantapur Town on the Dharmavaram-Anantapur line in the Guntakal Division of the Southern Railway;

(b) whether any request from the public has been received through the Municipal Council; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). The Andhra Government have submitted a list of level crossings to be replaced by under or over-bridges in order of priority, and the proposal for providing a bridge in place of level crossing at Mile 42/11-12 near Anantapur Railway Station is to be