

(d) As stated already, the question of utilisation of the steamer service is still under examination.

#### Nagarjunasagar Project

\*913. **Shri Raml Reddy:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of the Nagarjunasagar Project with particular reference to the construction of the Dam and the excavation of the canals;

(b) the total expenditure incurred so far; and

(c) whether the progress is according to schedule?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) A statement showing the progress of work upto the end of October, 1958 is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 134.]

(b) Rs. 15.96 crores upto the end of October, 1958.

(c) Yes, Sir. In fact progress on some items is ahead of schedule.

#### Unauthorised Hawkers in Trains

\*914. { **Shri Tangamani:**  
**Shri Ram Krishan:**  
**Shri Rajendra Singh:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of beggars and unauthorised hawkers travelling in trains has increased;

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet the situation; and

(c) what is the number of such persons apprehended since the 1st April, 1958 so far?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Statistics are maintained only in regard

to beggars and unauthorised hawkers detected and dealt with on Railway premises including trains and not separately on trains only.

(b) The number of persons so detected and dealt with has not shown an increase, and the question of taking steps to meet the situation on account of the increase does not, therefore, arise.

(c) About 5 lakhs of persons were so detected and dealt with during the period 1-4-58 to 30-9-58. This includes, persons who were chased away from the Railway premises, persons who were apprehended, but let off outside the Railway Premises and persons apprehended and prosecuted.

#### Grain-Eating Pests

\*915. { **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:**  
**Shri Muhammed Elias:**  
**Shri Prabhat Kar:**  
**Shri Halder:**

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

(a) what is the approximate estimate of wastage in food production on account of devastation caused in fields under cultivation by rats, insects and other grain-eating pests;

(b) whether instructions have been sent out to State Governments for campaign to be systematically conducted for destroying such pests; and

(c) what, if any, has been the progress of work in this regard?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) About 68 lakh tons, valued at approximately Rs. 204 crores per annum.

(b) and (c). The importance of Plant Protection in the field of agricultural production is well known to the State Governments.

A large number of campaigns have been conducted against pests and also diseases causing reductions in food production all over the country and