

two ferry-crafts for crossing Brahmaputra at Jogighopa, Pancharatna in the State of Assam; and

(b) if so, whether orders have been placed and when the two crafts are likely to be put into operation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The tenders are still under scrutiny.

(b) The period of delivery will depend on the tender accepted and may range from 9 to 20 months from the date on which an order is placed.

Tractors

*798. Shri Shree Narayan Das Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 414 on the 29th July, 1957 and state.

(a) the description of the 34 tractors which are being scrapped, from where they were purchased and the prices paid for them;

(b) whether at the time of purchase any guarantees were obtained from the suppliers;

(c) if so, the nature of such guarantees, and

(d) the hours of work done by these tractors?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) These 34 tractors consist of 25 HD-19 Allis Chalmers tractors and 9 FDE tractors, and were purchased from U S A in 1949 with the loan from the International Bank. The price paid was Rs 77,000,- each for Allis Chalmers tractors and Rs 61,500 each per FDE tractors

(b) and (c) Yes, the manufacturers had guaranteed free supply of parts in case any manufacturing defects came to light within one year of purchase of tractors.

(d) 10500 to 12000 hours in the case of HD 19 tractors and 12000 to 13500 hours in the case of F.D.E tractors.

Disciplinary Action against Railwaymen

*800. { Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several years are taken to decide cases of disciplinary action against Railwaymen who are kept under suspension;

(b) whether a statement showing the number of cases of suspension for one year and above pending now on the Southern Railway will be laid on the Table of the Sabha; and

(c) what are the conditions under which a suspension order is issued?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No. Normally disciplinary action is taken as quickly as possible

(b) On 31st July, 1957 there were 38 cases of suspension on the Southern Railway which were over one year old

(c) A Non-Gazetted Railway servant is placed under suspension in the circumstances stated in Rule 1711 of the Indian Railway Establishment Code, Vol I, a copy of which is available in the library of the House

Food Situation in Tripura

*801. { Shri Bangshi Thakur:
Shri Dasaratha Deb:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of essential food commodities are higher in Tripura than in other parts of India,

(b) whether it is also a fact that even now rice is being sold in the local market of the upper part of Kailasahar Division of Tripura at the rate of Rs 35/- to Rs. 37/- per maund and the price of rice in other parts of Tripura is not less than Rs. 25/- per maund;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to bring down prices of essential food commodities in Tripura;

(d) whether Government are aware that ration cards are not being issued to the rural people, particularly to the hill tribes, and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Prices in Tripura are no doubt high, but are not higher than those in some centres of Assam, West Bengal and Bihar

(b) No Sir

(c) Rice which is the staple food in Tripura is being issued through fair price shops in retail at Rs 18/- per maund. Wheat is also being issued at Rs 16/- per maund

(d) Ration cards are being issued to both urban and rural people including the tribal people wherever necessary

(e) Does not arise

Theft in Parcel Office, Cuttack

*802. Shri B. C. Mullick: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a packet consisting of about two hundred copies of examination papers held under the Secondary Board of Education, Orissa was stolen from inside the Parcel Office of the Cuttack Railway Station, Orissa,

(b) whether any investigation has been made by the Railway authorities and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c) The Secretary, Board of Secondary Education, Orissa sent a telegram on 13-5-1957 about the non-receipt of a consignment containing Examination Papers despatched from Sambalpur to Cuttack on 6-5-1957. The said officer informed the Railway again on 16-5-1957 that the consignment had

since been received. The delay in delivery is under investigation.

Manufacture of Electric Trains

*803. Shri Gajendra Prasad Shaha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what progress has been made about the proposal to start manufacture of electric trains for Calcutta and Bombay by the Hindustan Aircraft (Private) Ltd?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): The Hindustan Aircraft (P) Ltd, are negotiating with their prospective collaborators Messrs Hitachi Ltd, Japan and M A N, West Germany for the manufacture of mechanical parts of Electric Multiple Unit in progressive stages as a long term measure. The Project Reports from these firms have not been received

Chittaranjan Loco Works

*804. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the number of locomotives manufactured in Chittaranjan during the year 1956-57, and

(b) whether the cost of production has come down?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) 156

(b) Yes

Post and Telegraph Facilities in Rajasthan

*805. Shri J. R. Mehta: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) how many villages with a population of 2,000 or above are still without Post Office facilities in Rajasthan, and how many places with a population of 5,000 or above are without Telegraph facilities, and

(b) whether any time schedule has been worked out in regard to the provision of these facilities?