

on (i) the broad gauge and (ii) the metre gauge Sections;

(b) whether any proposals are under consideration to increase the double track on the Southern Railway, and

(c) if so, the details of the number of miles and the particular routes?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) (i) 54 miles (including quadruple)

(ii) 22 miles (including treble)

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir Up to now 66 miles of doubling in Bezwada-Gudur section, 25 miles in Arkonam-Renigunta section, 63 miles in Arkonam-Erode section and about 11 miles in Waltair-Rajahmundry section have been approved. Additional miles of doubling will be considered in future years.

Visakhapatnam Shipyard

*825. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether any foreign experts have been asked to advise on the further development of Visakhapatnam shipyard; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b) Excepting the Technical Consultants of the Hindustan Shipyard, no other foreign experts have been asked to advise in this matter.

Food Adulteration Act

*826. Shri Jhulan Sinha: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether there has been any improvement in respect of supply of unadulterated food in Delhi in particular and in the country in general as a result of the operation of the provisions of the Food Adulteration Act?

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): It is still premature to assess the overall effects of the opera-

tion of the Act but reports from Delhi, Madras, Kerala, Punjab, Assam, Bombay and Andhra Pradesh indicate that the Act is proving fairly effective in curbing adulteration of food stuffs in these areas.

Indo-U.S.A. Agreement on Farm Surpluses

*827. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Naushir Bharucha:

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

(a) the items and quantity of farm surpluses imported up-to-date under the Indo-U.S.A. Agricultural Commodities Agreement of 1956,

(b) the value of such commodities;

(c) at what prices (average) these commodities have been sold in India, and

(d) the quantities of the commodities to be imported by the 31st March, 1958?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (d) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No 129]

Railway Vendors

*828. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the extra facilities provided to vendors after the departmentalisation of vending; and

(b) whether they will be absorbed into a permanent cadre of Railway employees for purposes of leave?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Vendors employed under the departmental set-up for selling food articles on a commission basis are given a reasonable rate of commission and have prospects of regular employment, which compare favourably with their general conditions of service under the contractors.

They are also not now subject to harassment and exploitation, which was reportedly meted out to them by some contractors.

(b) No.

Coal Wagons

585. **Shri B. Dasgupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the tonnage of coal originating in the homeland of South Eastern Railway and Eastern Railway respectively including coal for Government Railways (non-revenue);

(b) the number of coal wagons moving per year from Adra to Calcutta and passing through Kharagpur;

(c) the number of coal wagons moving per year from Adra to Calcutta and passing through Asansol;

(d) the average freight per ton per mile of coal; and

(e) the ratio of the working expenses to the gross earning from the freight of coal from Adra to Calcutta via Kharagpur and via Asansol respectively (1956-57)?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a)

Tonnage of coal during 1956-57 (In thousands)

South Eastern Railway	..	10,811
Eastern Railway	..	21,315

(b) 14,961 wagons in 1956-57.

(c) 2,608 wagons in 1956-57.

(d) Average rate (in pies) per ton of coal per mile in 1955-56.

South Eastern Railway—6'69.

Eastern Railway—6'58.

(e) The information is not available as it is not possible to compute the expenses for carriage of any specific item of traffic separately.

Construction of Double Railway Lines

586. **Shri B. Dasgupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the present average cost of construction of a double railway line per mile on the South Eastern and Eastern Railway, inclusive of incidental bridges?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): The Hon'ble Member is probably asking about the cost of providing a double line alongside the existing single line. On the Eastern Railway actually no doubling is in progress. On the South Eastern Railway the cost of doubling varies from Rs. 5.3 lakhs per mile to Rs. 8.3 lakhs per mile. The cost of doubling depends on the nature of the country traversed, cost of labour and materials, imported or indigenous, etc.

Postal Facilities in Orissa

587. **Shri P. G. Deb:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the expansion programme of postal services and facilities in the Districts of Sambalpur and Dhenkanal in the State of Orissa during the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications. (Shri Raj Bahadur): A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 130].

Lac Industry

588. **Shri R. Narayanasamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme for the development and improvement of the lac industry in the Cumbum valley, Periyakulam Taluk, Madurai District; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.