

the State Food Ministers held recently in Bombay; and

(b) whether these decisions are recommendatory or obligatory?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) The discussions at Bombay with the Food Ministers of certain States related to the general food conditions and the future policy. The talks were exploratory and no decisions were taken.

(b) Does not arise.

#### BUILDING PROGRAMME

**\*618. Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the building programme of the Ministry is very much in arrears both in regard to office accommodation as well as staff quarters; and

(b) whether C.P.W.D. is not able to cope with the requirements and consequently funds provided lapse and if so, what were the amounts so lapsed in the last three years (year by year)?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) The building programme is in arrears to a certain extent.

(b) The C.P.W.D. is able to cope with the requirements of this Ministry. There was lapse of funds to a certain extent, which was due mainly to delay in the acquisition of land. A statement showing the funds which lapsed during the last 3 years is laid on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 43].

#### CLASS IV OFFICERS' QUARTERS

**\*619. Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Advisory Committee for Post and Telegraph for Assam has recommended that the standard accommodation provided in class IV officers' quarters of the Department is too inadequate and that the standard adopted for tea garden labourers should be adopted for Post and Telegraph class IV officials; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps thereon?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes; it is understood that in a recent meeting of the Advisory Committee

for Post and Telegraph for Assam the question of accommodation provided for the P. and T. Class IV staff being less than that provided generally for the tea garden labour in Assam was raised. No official report has been received on the point.

(b) The question will be examined on receipt of full details.

#### SUBURBAN TRAINS (MONTHLY FARES)

**\*620. Shri Tushar Chatterjee:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the 3rd class monthly fares of suburban trains of Howrah from 1st November, 1952;

(b) if so, what is the rate of increase, and why this increase; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in proportion to daily fares, the rate of monthly fare for 3rd class was already higher than that of other classes and if so, why this discrimination?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Yes, for distances below 58 miles in the Howrah Division.

(b) The increase varies according to distance and ranges in most cases between As. 8 and Re. 1/- per monthly ticket. The maximum increase, however, goes upto Rs. 1/7/-.

The introduction of a standard basis of third class monthly suburban fares, applying uniformly to the entire Calcutta suburban area served by the former B.A., B.N. and E.I. Railways and designed to yield the same overall revenue as before, has necessarily meant a slight increase in fares in areas previously enjoying unduly low fares and a decrease in others. There has been such decrease not only in areas comprising most of the stations in the Sealdah Division of the ex-B.A. Railway and stations on the ex-B.N. Railway but also stations of the ex-E.I. Railway for distances 58 miles and over.

(c) The monthly suburban fares are not based on ordinary single journey fares in any class. If they work out higher in proportion to ordinary fares in the case of III class, as compared with, say 1st Class, it is, in part, due to much poorer amenities in the upper classes in the suburban service compared with ordinary trains than in the case of 3rd class. Further, having regard to the level of 3rd class suburban season ticket fares the quantum of