

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

charges of upper class suburban season ticket fares have also to be so adjusted as to attract traffic to the upper classes.

**TRAIN BETWEEN BILASPUR AND DANGARGARH**

\*621. **Shri Kirolikar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a local train was running between Bilaspur and Dangargarh and it was stopped during war time on the Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to re-start the train?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Yes.

(b) This service has already been included in the list of trains to be restored when coaching stock and power position improves, and it stands fifth in the order of priority on the Eastern Railway.

**SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO WEST BENGAL**

\*622. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of rice and wheat would be supplied to Calcutta and Industrial area in West Bengal during the year 1953;

(b) whether the Government of India have asked the Government of West Bengal to contribute any quota of rice to the Central Food stock; and

(c) if so, what is the quantity of rice required of the Government of West Bengal?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Government of India have agreed to look after the feeding of Calcutta in 1953, and the required quantities will be supplied.

(b) and (c). One-and-a-half lakhs tons of rice will be contributed by West Bengal to the Central Food stocks, and this may be raised if the actual crop position is found to be better than the preliminary estimates so far received.

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES**

\*623. **Shri Rup Narain:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) how many Vocational Training Centres are in India under the administration of Ministry of Labour;

(b) whether the trainees are given certificates, diplomas or degrees which have been recognised;

(c) if the certificates are not recognised, why it is so and whether Government are considering this question; and

(d) whether the trainees are given any assurance from Government for their employment after the training period is over?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) 62.

(b) and (c). Diplomas awarded to the successful trainees have been recognised by some of the State Governments and Central Government authorities. The matter has been taken up with the others.

(d) No.

**WHEAT FROM ARGENTINE**

201. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of wheat imported from Argentine during the last four years;

(b) the price at which the imports were made;

(c) whether any barter arrangements have been arrived at with the Argentine Government for supply of jute goods in return for their wheat; and

(d) if so, how much and at what calculated price?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) The quantity of wheat imported from Argentine during the four years 1948 to 1951 and cost (including sea freight) of wheat imported during the first three years 1948 to 1950 were as follows:—

Year	Quantity in thousand tons.	Value in lakhs of rupees.
1948	90	356
1949	299	1140
1950	485	1761
1951	513	—

Wheat from Argentine has been imported on barter basis and in the public interest, it is not desirable to disclose the value of wheat imported in 1951.

No wheat has been imported during 1952.