

(c) Are Government aware of the serious inconvenience caused to the general public by the level crossings, particularly in municipal areas?

(d) Is it a fact that the question of constructing an overbridge near Salem Market Station has been before the Railway authorities for about the last 20 years and if so, when will the matter be taken up?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). The rules governing the construction of Railway overbridges and underbridges are contained in paragraphs 1117 to 1122 of the Indian Railways General Code, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(c) Yes, a number of cases have been reported.

(d) State Governments were asked to prepare a list showing the order of priority for replacement of level crossings by over or underbridges, the cost of which would be shared according to the rules mentioned above. The replacement of the Salem Market Station level crossing has been accorded 10th place by the Madras Government in the order of priority and will be taken up after dealing with the cases which have been accorded higher priority.

#### REPORT OF INLAND WATER TRANSPORT EXPERT

\*1777. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the Ganga-Brahmaputra Water Transport Board, in their recent sittings, considered the Report of Mr. J. Surie, Inland Water Transport Expert of the Ganga-Brahmaputra River System?

(b) What were the proposals?

(c) How many representatives of the State Governments and the Government of India attended the meeting?

(d) What further steps will be taken to implement the recommendations?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Yes.

(b) Mr. Surie's important recommendations relate to the undertaking of three projects, viz. (1) a pilot project for testing the feasibility of towing barges and boats by shallow draft tugs on the Ganga and the Ghagra. (2) another pilot project on the Diling and Subansiri rivers in Assam,

and (3) a pilot project for a ferry service across the Brahmaputra.

(c) Three representatives of the Central Government and one representative each from the State Government, of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam.

(d) It is proposed to request the U.N. for financial and technical assistance for preparing the designs and drawings of craft and for running all the three pilot projects.

#### NEEM OIL

\*1779. **Shri Jethalal Joshi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any experiment has been made to press oil out of small fruits of the Neem trees;

(b) if so, the result thereof;

(c) whether, as a result of any research, it is possible to take out the bitterness of its taste; and

(d) whether its oil can be put to any use?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) and (b). Neem seed is already being pressed and the oil is produced on a commercial scale in several parts of the country.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes; the refined oil or the partially or completely hydrogenated oil can be used for manufacture of soaps, stearin, oleic acid or as hardened fat.

#### HOUSE-RENT ALLOWANCE TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES AT KHARAGPUR

\*1780. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of paying house-rent allowance to the Railway employees at Kharagpur after the publication of the results of the 1951 census; and

(b) if so, from which date the house-rent allowance is going to be paid?

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

(b) From 1-10-1952.