

(b) Yes, four Committees have submitted their reports regarding the principles to be adopted for combining the seniority of the staff of the integrating units.

(c) No specific ban has been placed on confirmations but in certain categories the pace of confirmations has slowed down.

#### IMPORT OF WHEAT FROM U.S.A.

\*483. **Shri S. C. Singhal:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the present rate at which the Government of India are purchasing wheat in the U.S.A.?

(b) What were the prices at which Government purchased wheat during the last three years and how much quantity was purchased during the same period?

(c) What was the freight paid to the shipping companies and how much was paid to Indian companies?

(d) How much premium was paid to the Insurance companies for covering the risk and what sum was paid to the Indian companies?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Purchases of wheat from U.S.A. are now being made under the International Wheat Agreement only at rates varying between \$ 1.84 and 1.87 per bushel.

(b) The quantity of wheat purchased from U.S.A. during the last three years and the prices paid were as under:—

Year	Quantity purchased (000 tons)	prices paid per bushel of 60 lbs.
1950	224.5	\$ 1.69 to 1.90
1951	2424.1	\$ 1.79 to 2.65
1952	1537.8	\$ 1.83 to 2.90

(c) The freight paid on the quantity received in India during the three years 1950, 1951 and 1952 was Rs. 4086.2 lakhs. Of this Rs. 72.4 lakhs were paid to Indian Companies.

(d) Cargoes of wheat shipped from U.S.A. were not insured.

#### INCREASE IN PRICE OF RATION FOR TEA PLANTATION WORKERS

\*486. **Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal have increased the price

of ration for the Tea Plantation workers of Darjeeling from Rs. 8/- to Rs. 17 8/- per maund; and

(b) whether it is a fact that this step of the Government of West Bengal has been taken notwithstanding the agreement by the Tea Garden owners with the Tripartite Conference Resolution demand that no reduction in the earnings of the workers should take place pending the report of a Tripartite Commission?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) On the basis of an interim report of the Minimum Wages Tea Plantations Advisory Committee, the Government of West Bengal have allowed planters in hill areas of Darjeeling to supply rationed foodgrains to workers @ Rs. 17-8-0 per maund instead of Rs. 8/- per maund for a period of two months with effect from the 1st January, 1953, on condition that gardens supplying foodgrains at the higher rate shall not close, nor retrench any existing employee or offer employment for less than six days a week during the said period. This step has been taken purely as a temporary measure to avert closure of more gardens.

(b) The agreement of planters that there would be no reduction in the earnings of workers was subject to the grant of relief to tea gardens by way of refund of excise duty etc., which was not accepted by the Central Government.

#### LOADINGS OF SUGAR-CANE AND Gur

\*487. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints from the Cane growers of the Jullundhar District, regarding insufficient arrangements for loading sugar-cane and gur during the current crushing season; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) There have been hardly any complaints in respect of supply of wagons for loading of sugarcane which has been on the whole satisfactory.

Generally during the crushing season, special steps are taken to augment the wagon supply to meet the requirements of sugar mills.

Complaints have, however, been received from various quarters re-

garding movement of *Gur*. This is so because *Gur* is not treated as preferential traffic and has, therefore to share along with other non-preferential traffic the wagon availability after meeting the essential demands of preferential traffic.

(b) In view of the reply to part (a), the question does not arise in respect of sugar-cane traffic. As regards *Gur*, as and when feasible, consistent with the other demands, maximum possible transport is made available. The traffic cleared during the current season has recorded a substantial increase over that moved during the corresponding period of the last season.

#### SOUTHERN RAILWAY LABOUR UNION (RESOLUTIONS)

\*488. **Shri Nambiar:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Railway authorities have received the Resolutions passed and communicated by the Southern Railway Labour Union at its 13th annual conference held at Golden Rock?

(b) What action has been taken on the general and departmental grievances of Railwaymen enumerated therein?

(c) What is the total number of Resolutions so received and what action has been taken thereon?

(d) Are communications sent to the Labour Union as and when actions are taken on the various Resolutions?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) A copy of the resolutions, referred to, has been received along with various letters dated the 2nd, 3rd and 11th October, 1952 addressed by the hon. Member in his capacity as the General Secretary of the Southern Railway Labour Union, to the Minister for Transport and Railways.

(b) to (d). No action was taken as our general policy is to deal formally, only with recognised Unions. As for the first part of (c), I may add that a large number of resolutions has been received along with the letters referred to in the reply to part (a).

#### COLLIERY WORKERS (HOLIDAYS)

\*493. **Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Management of the collieries have accepted the recommendations of the Collieries Labour Enquiry Committee with regard to the grant of ten days leave with pay to the workers in collieries?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** It is not clear to which Collieries Labour Enquiry Committee reference is intended. If the reference is to the Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri D. G. Jadhav set up by the Hyderabad Government, information is not available but will be collected and placed on the Table of the House.

#### RAILWAY COLLISION AT LUDHIANA

\*509. **Giani G. S. Musafir:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a collision between the engines at Ludhiana on or about the 3rd February, 1953;

(b) if so, the circumstances of the same;

(c) the estimated amount of loss incurred in this collision; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid such collisions in future?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). At about 24 hours on 3rd February, 1953, a fireman passed Shunter at Ludhiana who was on leave got on to the incoming engine of train No. 6 LF standing on the examining pit in Loco Shed, Ludhiana, and worked it to the Traffic yard where it collided with a shunting engine standing near the water column, resulting in the derailment of the shunting engine and one ash truck which was also standing on the same line.

(c) Approximately Rs. 4,500/-.

(d) An Assistant Officers' Joint Enquiry has been held to enquire into this accident and necessary action will be taken on their findings.

#### WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

\*512. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the active member States of the W.H.O.;

(b) what is India's financial contribution towards the W.H.O. for the year 1953; and

(c) what are the health programmes now under way in India for the year 1953 under the direction of the W.H.O. Regional Office for India?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) and (c). Two statements are placed on the Table of the