

(c) If they have been consulted, what were their views for the expansion of the Medical Services in the country?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Steps to increase the number of doctors in the country are taken primarily by the State Governments who are doing their best in the matter with the limited finances available. Most of the larger States maintain Medical Colleges. Some of them propose to open new Medical Colleges.

(b) Yes. A representative section of the Medical Profession was constituted into a Health Panel for advising the Planning Commission and a number of sub-committees were formed to study specific subjects.

(c) Their views were generally in favour of expanding the facilities for professional education and training, an increase in the number of hospitals and dispensaries and an integrated curative and preventive approach to the problem of rural health.

TELEGRAPH WORKSHOP, JABALPUR

***586. Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telegraph Workshop situated at Jabalpur is being shifted to Bangalore;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this; and

(c) when the workshop was established in Jabalpur?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In 1942.

TRAMWAYS IN DELHI

***587. Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what steps the Delhi Road Transport Authority has taken over the Tramways running in Old Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that the tramways in Delhi are worn out and are not giving satisfactory service?

(c) What steps are being taken to improve or abolish the tramways in Delhi?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The Delhi Tramways Service was taken over by the Delhi Road Transport Authority from the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority with effect from 1st April 1951.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Delhi Road Transport Authority has under consideration the question of replacing gradually the trams and trolley buses by petrol or diesel-engined buses with bodies suited to the requirements of the routes concerned.

RAJPUTANA DESERT

***588. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first phase of the scheme of immobilization of the Rajputana Desert has been initiated; and

(b) whether the desert has made any further encroachments upon the Indo-Gangetic plain?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes. A Desert Afforestation Research Station has been established at Jodhpur with effect from the 17th October, 1952

(b) A quantitative assessment of the encroachment is not feasible.

CENTRAL FERTILIZER POOL

***589. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to continue the Central fertilizer pool during the year 1953;

(b) what were the demands for Ammonia Sulphate on the Central pool by the various States Governments and interests during the year 1952; and

(c) whether all demands could be met out of the pool?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing the demands for sulphate of ammonia made on the Central Fertilizer Pool by the various State Governments and interests during the calendar year 1952 is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 45.]

(c) Yes.

FOOD SUBSIDY TO TRAVANCORE-COCHIN STATE

***593. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of subsidy or aid promised to or earmarked for Travancore-Cochin State in the light of the discussions at the States Food

Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi in January, 1953; and

(b) what representations, if any, have been made by the Travancore-Cochin Government regarding the adequacy of such Central aid or subsidy?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). This matter was recently discussed with the representatives of the Travancore-Cochin Government. They have made a provision for Rs. 2 crores in their budget towards maintaining the issue price of rice at Rs. 17/- per md. during 1953 also. The Centre has agreed to arrange supplies of rice to the State during 1953 in such a way that it would enable the State to limit the loss on the sale of rice to Rs. 2 crores provided for in the Travancore-Cochin Government's budget.

COIMBATORE-MYSORE RAILWAY LINE

***596. Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mysore Legislature has passed a Resolution asking for a new railway link between Coimbatore and Mysore via Satyamangalam; and

(b) whether the matter has been examined and whether Government propose to take up that work in the near future?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Government is not aware of any Resolution of the Mysore Legislature on this subject.

(b) A list of construction projects to be taken up or surveyed has already been given in the Minister's Budget speech. Construction of any more lines can be considered only after a decision has been taken on the results of the surveys scheduled.

DECONTROL ON FOODGRAINS

***599. Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the effect of decontrol on food, in the various States which have decontrolled substantially, on prices and availability; and

(b) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to keep down prices?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Allowing for the effect of seasonal variations, prices of foodgrains have, on the whole, declined and availability in the open

market increased inasmuch as the off-take from Government shops has gone down.

(b) Precautions to keep prices within reasonable limits and avoid cornering of stocks are in hand; but no need has yet arisen to put the machinery into service.

CONGRESS SESSION AT HYDERABAD

***602. Shri Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what were the special arrangements made by the Posts and Telegraphs Department in connection with the 58th Session of the All-India Congress?

(b) What was the total expenditure incurred by the Department on these arrangements?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The following arrangements were made:—

(i) *Postal:*—Three post offices were opened, namely at Nanalnagar, Sarvodaya Pradarshani and Noulou Hospital. The Nanalnagar post office was a delivery office.

(ii) *Telegraph:*—A camp telegraph office was opened for the prompt handling of the large volume of press and public traffic.

(iii) *Telephones:*—A temporary telephone exchange was opened at the Camp. 108 telephone connections and two Public Call Offices were given in the camp area. 19 telephones were provided in Hyderabad.

(b) The actual figures are not yet available. It is expected that the expenditure would be about Rs. 29,200/-.

INDIAN SHIPS FOR OBSERVING WEATHER CONDITIONS

***605. Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the Government of India have launched a scheme for 'recruiting' Indian ships for observing weather conditions during their navigation?

(b) What are the full details of the scheme and how far has it been implemented?

(c) Who will study all the data so collected by the ships?