

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?

(d) Have the ships been fitted with any special instruments for these observations and if so, from where were these instruments procured?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes.

(b) The scheme was launched in 1948. Under this scheme certain selected ships which are equipped with a full set of ordinary meteorological instruments are required to send their observations by wireless four times a day to coastal meteorological stations. There is also an arrangement with certain other ships which are not so equipped to send their observations on request or whenever necessary.

(c) The Forecasting Offices at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

(d) The ships are fitted with ordinary meteorological instruments, such as Barometer, Barograph, Psychrometer etc. Some of these were purchased from the U.K. and others were manufactured in the Indian Meteorological Department.

#### MEDICAL EDUCATION

**\*607. Pandit Lingaraj Misra:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state what is the general outline of the scheme for the unification of the Courses of Medical Education in India?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** There is no scheme for the unification of the Courses of Medical Education in India.

#### RAILWAY STALL-HOLDERS AT KHARAGPUR

**\*609. Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether several hundred shopkeepers within the Railway premises at Kharagpur have stopped payment of rents as a protest against the enhancement of rates of the small stall holders; and

(b) if so, what is the decision of Government on the representation of the Kharagpur Shopkeepers' Association?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) 70 out of 624 small stall-holders within the Railway premises at Kharagpur have stopped payment of rent as a protest against the enhancement of rent.

(b) The decision on the representation of the Kharagpur Shopkeepers' Association is that they should pay

the enhanced rent. The enhancement was effected after due agreement between the Railway Administration and the Merchants' Association at Kharagpur.

#### SCHEDULED CASTE EMPLOYEES IN P. AND T. DEPARTMENT

**\*612. Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new Post and Telegraph offices opened during the year 1952 (State-wise); and

(b) the staff employed during the said period and the amount of expenditure incurred by the Government of India?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 46]

(b) The information has been called for and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

#### NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION

**\*616. Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state when the work of remodeling of the New Delhi Railway Station will be taken up and when the work is likely to be completed?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** The work is proposed to be taken up during 1953-54 and is likely to be completed during 1954-55.

#### TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR CATTLE SHOW

**\*617. Shri Anirudha Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Administration used to grant facilities for transport of cattle on Railways for Cattle Shows;

(b) if so, in what form;

(c) whether it is a fact that no facility in any form is now granted to the cattle-breeders for transport of cattle on Railways for the Cattle Shows and if so, since when;

(d) whether the Railway Administration have received any representation from the All India Cattle Breeders Conference and from other organisations for revival of the facilities; and

(e) if so, what are the decisions, if any, taken so far by the Railway Administration?