

has been responsible for the fall in the prices of ore.

(c) Yes.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

SELF RECORDING INSTRUMENTS

*90. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether self-recording instruments like barographs and thermographs are manufactured in India;

(b) if so, when they were first manufactured;

(c) the number of instruments in use at present;

(d) how many of them are imported ones and how many indigenous; and

(e) how their price compares?

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

(b) In 1948.

(c) 262.

(d) 208 are imported and 54 indigenous.

(e) I lay on the Table a statement showing the prices of the imported instruments and of those manufactured by the Department. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 19.]

MODIFIED RATIONING IN WEST BENGAL

*91. Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state in how many districts and municipalities outside the Calcutta Rationing Area in West Bengal, the system of essential food-grains supply known as 'modified rationing' has been introduced since May, 1953, and the reasons therefor?

(b) Are there any fixed rules or instructions as to the introduction of modified rationing in non-rationed areas correlated to the rice and paddy prices prevailing in such areas?

(c) Do Government propose to lay on the Table of the House, a statement showing the average market prices of rice in different Districts of West Bengal outside the Calcutta Rationing Area during the months of May to July 1953?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Modified rationing has been introduced in 13 Districts including 40 Municipalities in West Bengal since May, 1953. This measure is intended to bring down the market price of rice where it is high and to afford relief to the people of low purchasing power.

(b) No, Sir. District officers have been given discretion to introduce modified rationing in their districts whenever and wherever they find it necessary.

(c) Yes; a statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix, 1, annexure No. 20.]

जमुना ब्रिज के पास रेल गाड़ी का रोकना
जाना

*९२. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे:

(क) क्या यह तथ्य है कि २४ मई, १९५३ को टूंडला से आने वाली गाड़ी को आगरे के पास जलेश्वर स्टेशन और जमुना ब्रिज के बीच डाकुओं ने रोक लिया था, जिसके कारण एक व्यक्ति की मृत्यु हो गयी थी तथा एक व्यक्ति घायल हो गया था;

(ख) क्या उस गाड़ी में आर० पी० पी० थी; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो क्या आर० पी० पी० ने यात्रियों को जान-माल की रक्षा करने का कोई प्रयत्न किया था ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) A robbery was attempted on the 1 up Tundla-Agra train between Chhalesar and Yamuna Bridge stations at about 2.43 hours on the night of 22/23-5-53 and