

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes.

(b) About Rs. 5,32,000/-.

(c) The plans of the hospital are under preparation.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund.

(f) No ayurvedic dispensaries have been provided by the Coal Mines Welfare Fund. Information about such private dispensaries is not available.

RAILWAY USERS' CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

***109. Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the six Zonal railway Users' Consultative Committees as well as the National Railway Users' Consultative Council have been formed and are functioning?

(b) If so, in what proportion are different interests represented on the Committees and the Council?

(c) Have these Committees and Council held any meetings?

(d) If so, what are the important questions on which they have submitted their recommendations?

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

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 23.]

(c) Meetings of the Zonal Consultative Committees were held towards the end of July and the National Council is expected to meet shortly.

(d) The Proceedings of the meetings are still awaited. Government are therefore, not yet aware of the recommendations made.

'OWN YOUR WAGON' SCHEME

***110. Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any scheme called 'Own Your Wagon' is under the consideration of Government?

(b) If so, what are the important features of the scheme?

(c) Have the opinions of the railway users been invited and received?

(d) How long will it take to come to a final decision in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The proposal is in the exploratory stage only and no scheme has yet been framed.

(c) A Questionnaire has been issued. If and when a scheme is prepared, it will be discussed at a meeting of the National Council of Railway Users.

(d) It is not possible to say at present.

DARBHANGA MEDICAL COUNCIL

***111. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 259 asked on the 23rd February, 1953 and state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India has since arranged for the inspection of the Darbhanga Medical College, which is now affiliated to the Bihar University;

(b) if so, whether the Council has recommended to Government the recognition of (i) the Institution under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933, and (ii) the M.B.B.S. Degree to be awarded by the University of Bihar;

(c) whether the recognition has been given; and

(d) if so, whether it has been given with retrospective effect?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes.

(b) No such recommendation has been received so far.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

IMPORT OF RICE FROM CHINA

***112. Mr. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India had approached the Government of China for the supply of rice; and

(b) if so, at what stage are the negotiations?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, The Government of India did approach the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China for sale of some rice. This was some months ago but no agreement was reached. The matter was not pursued further as it was found that the Government of India did not need any more import of rice for the present.

CUTTACK RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

***113. Shri Barman:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Cuttack Rice Research Institute has received or is going to receive any equipment from Australia under the Colombo Plan?

(b) If so, what is that equipment?

(c) Is there any proposal to construct any new laboratory building for the Institute?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes. The Institute has been promised some equipment from Australia under the Colombo Plan. No equipment has been received so far.

(b) A list is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes.

STATEMENT

The equipment likely to be received from the Government of Australia for the Central Rice Research Institute.

List of Equipment.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Grain Moisture Meter (Battery operated) for field use | One |
| (2) Grain Moisture Meter (Main operated) | One |
| (3) Petrol Gas generator | One |
| (4) Grain Incubator | One |
| (5) Laboratory scales capacity 500 gram x 0.1 gram | Two |
| (6) Spray Master (Power sprayer) with 1-2 H. P. Petrol engine—Complete with hose & spray gun | One |
| (7) Spray Master (Portable power sprayer complete with hose and spray gun) | One |
| (8) 'Buzacott' Merine sprayer with accessories spray gun, nozzles, both for high pressure and low volume spraying. | One |

POSTAL STAFF IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

***114. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special allowance payable to employees in the Posts and Telegraphs Department in the State of Jammu and Kashmir is withheld from those who work in certain areas thereof; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No special allowance is at present admissible to the P. and T. staff in Jammu and Kashmir State. The operational area allowance which was discontinued from 1st March, 1953 was admissible to the staff throughout the State except in Jammu city.