

(d) if so, the name of such State Governments and decision of the Central Government on their demand?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). No request for subsidy has been received. A request for sharing the loss involved in concessional sale of food-grains in the flood affected areas has been received from the Bihar Government and is under consideration.

(c) and (d). Yes, the States of West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Bombay, Mysore and Travancore-Cochin wanted the Central Government to pay subsidy on imported foodgrains supplied to them. Except in the case of Travancore-Cochin, the request has been turned down in all cases.

ACCIDENT TO "S.S. CHANDRAVATI"

*1305. **Shri M. D. Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the accident to the passenger steamer the "S.S. Chandravati" of the Bombay Steam Navigation Co. near Malwan Port, on the West Coast some months ago?

(b) How many passengers were on board the ship at the time of the accident?

(c) Was there any loss of life?

(d) What was the total loss to the ship?

(e) Have Government decided to make an inquiry into the causes that led to this accident?

(f) Is it a fact that the entrance to Malwan Port is rocky and dangerous for the entry of ships?

(g) Is it a fact that sufficient beacon light arrangements are not provided to mark the precise passage line for ships?

(h) If so, what steps have Government taken to ensure safe entry and exit of ships in Malwan Port?

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

(b) 192.

(c) There was no loss of life.

(d) The information is not available.

(e) A preliminary inquiry into the cause of the accident, as required under section 247 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, has been held and the report of the inquiry is at present under examination.

(f) The entrance to the port is doubtless rocky but it cannot be said to be dangerous for the entry of ships in fair weather. The port is closed during the monsoons.

(g) and (h). The accident has highlighted the need for providing additional lights and improving the existing ones. Plans towards this end are being drawn up but since the port is a minor one and the lights would be "local lights" the financial responsibility for execution of the works would be that of the State Government.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST

*1307. **Pandit Lingaraj Misra:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that more than three-fourth of the mineral ores exported through the ports of Calcutta and Vizagapatnam come from the Orissa State?

(b) Have Government been approached to take action under Rules 5 and 6 of the Calcutta Port Act, 1890 to give place to a representative of the Orissa Chamber of Commerce in the body of the Commissioner of the Calcutta Port Trust?

(c) Has the representation been considered and any decision taken?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) is true that a substantial percentage of the ore shipments through Calcutta and Visakhapatnam originates from Orissa.

(b) Yes.

(c) The representation is under consideration.

UDAIPUR-BANSWARA TELEPHONE LINE

*1308. **Shri Bheekha Bhai:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state when the rehabilitation of the telephone line between Udaipur-Banswara will be taken in hand?

(b) Why the rehabilitation work has been delayed hitherto?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The rehabilitation of the line between Udaipur and Dungarpur will be taken in hand by the end of this financial year. The scheme relating to the line to Banswara is under examination.

(b) The financial effects of the respective schemes have to be fully examined before sanction can issue.

FLOODS IN NORTH BIHAR

*1309. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to refer to answer to short notice question No. 55 asked on the 3rd September, 1953 regarding floods in Bihar and state:

(a) whether the request from the Bihar State Government for aid has been considered and decision taken in the matter; and

(b) what measures of aid for immediate relief, if any, have been taken so far?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The request of the Bihar Government is still under consideration.

(b) The House has already been informed of the measures taken by the State Government for affording immediate relief to the people affected by floods in reply to the Short Notice Question No. 55 which was replied on the 3rd September, 1953.

GANGA BRIDGE PROJECT

*1310. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state

whether the technical details plans and estimates of the Ganga Bridge Project at Mokameh in Bihar have been finalised?

(b) Has the organisation to execute the work been set up and manned?

(c) If so, what is the nature and framework of that organisation?

(d) What is the total estimated expenditure involved giving separate figures for important parts of the Project?

(e) What will be the time taken to complete the work? •

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Most of the plans are ready, but the estimate is under preparation.

(b) The nucleus has been formed and the rest is gradually taking shape.

(c) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 32]

RAILWAY TRAINING SCHOOL AT UDAIPUR

658. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chief Engineer, Western Railway, had been sent to Udaipur to enquire and report in connection with the location of Railway Training School there?

(b) If so, which locality did he suggest and what were the reasons for it?

(c) What amount of money is expected to be incurred on the proposed building?

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

(b) The Chief Engineer, Western Railway, recommended the Fatehpura site as it was more suitable. The Improvement Trust had guaranteed to supply plentiful water both for domestic and garden use and they were also prepared to provide underground sewerage system on the outskirts of the proposed colony.