

supply of wagons for the clearance of the more important sugar traffic programmed by the Government.

(e) As many wagons as possible are supplied to this station. Their allotment to the different consignors is subject to the priority in accordance with the preferential Traffic Schedule in force. Within each of the priority groups in this Schedule, the allotment of wagons is made on the first-come-first-served principle.

FRENCH MOTOR CAR COMPANY
EMPLOYEES' UNION

*1398. **Shri Ramananda Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from the French Motor Car Company Employees' Union of Calcutta regarding the non-implementation of Employees Provident Fund Scheme in the French Motor Car Company, Ltd.?

(b) Do Government propose to implement the Provident Fund Scheme in the said Company?

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

(b) The Company has represented that the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, and the Scheme are not applicable to it. The legal position is at present under consideration and if it is held that the Act and the Scheme are applicable to the Company, necessary steps will be taken to implement the Scheme.

STEAMERS PLYING FROM CALCUTTA TO
ASSAM

*1399. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the foreign-owned Steamer Companies plying from Calcutta to Assam and back (through Pakistan) introduced a surcharge on the rates of freights and fares during the last War?

(b) If so, what were the reasons for doing so?

(c) Is it a fact that the surcharge has now been amalgamated with the original rates?

(d) If so, what are the rates now and what were they before the War (i) in terms of distance and (ii) with regard to principal commodities?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (d). The required information has been called for from the Government of West Bengal who are concerned with the matter. It will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

PLANTATION ACT

*1400. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state when it is proposed to enforce the Plantation Act passed in 1951?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): The question of enforcing the Plantation Act, 1951 is at present under consideration.

ORE-SPECIALS

*1401. **Pandit Lingaraj Misra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Authorities have received any representation on behalf of the Orissa Chamber of Commerce to increase the number of the ore-specials for the Barjanda and the Kulti Badamjatar areas from 3 to 5 and to give special priority to mineral ores as exportable goods for the movement of the present huge accumulated stocks in different stations of Orissa; and

(b) if so, what action has so far been taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, a representation on these lines was received from the Orissa Chamber of Commerce.

(b) Consistent with the overall demands of traffic to be met on the East

tern Railway from time to time, including those for ore for Iron and Steel Works, the export ore traffic is being moved to the maximum feasible extent. It is not practicable to arrange as a regular measure, the provision of 5 trains of export ore daily from the Bara Jamda and Kulti-Badampahar areas to K. P. Docks. Recently, however, owing to easy wagon position and slack traffic five trains a day for this traffic have been running on some occasions.

IMPORTED SUGAR

***1403. Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the distribution of imported sugar and the fixation of its price at a particular place would be made under the direction of the Government of India or under the direction of the appropriate State Governments; and

(b) what would be the general principles for selecting distributors?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 58].

GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS

***1404. Shri Veeraswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that of late, the III class reservation in the Grand Trunk Express, both at Madras (Central) and Delhi Junction, is not being done properly;

(b) whether it is a fact that at Madras, reservation is made in some bogey attached to the Grand Trunk Express which is a through-bogey from Bangalore and that this is felt by passengers to be very inconvenient;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in intermediate stations, railway officials allow passengers to get into the

reserved III Class bogey on the ground that the gangway and passages in the bogey are not reserved; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take to check these complaints?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) Yes, reservation for passengers entraining at Madras Central on the Grand Trunk Express was being made in the Bangalore City-Delhi through carriage running on the Grand Trunk Express in addition to the reservation made in the Madras-Delhi carriage. As this arrangement was found to be unsatisfactory, the reservation in the through carriage has since been discontinued and all third class reservation from Madras are made in the Madras-Delhi coach only.

(c) No such complaint has so far been received.

(d) Does not arise.

CONGESTION ON ASSAM RAIL LINK

***1405. Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the team of officers deputed to enquire into the travel conditions on the Assam rail-link has since been received;

(b) if so, whether in the light of the said report, Government propose to make a statement in the House;

(c) whether a copy of the report of the said team of officers will be placed on the Table of the House; and

(d) what action, if any, has been taken by Government to relieve the congestion?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesam): (a) An interim report has been received and the final one is expected soon.

(b) and (c). Consideration of these will have to await receipt of the final report.