

rates of demurrage charges are levied by the various Zones of the Railways?

(b) What has been the percentage rise as between the charge 10 years ago and now?

(c) What are the criteria under which such rates are fixed?

(d) Who fixes them and under what provision of law?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Demurrage is levied at a uniform rate on all railways, except at a few stations on the North Eastern Railway where the rates are higher.

(b) (i) No increase on the Northern, Central, Western and Southern Railways.

(ii) An increase ranging from 33½ per cent. to 50 per cent. on the Eastern Railway.

(iii) An increase ranging from 50 per cent. to 200 per cent. at only 16 stations of the North Eastern Railway.

(c) Rates for demurrage are fixed so as to procure prompt release of wagons, and to act as a deterrent against the use of wagons as warehouses.

(d) The ceiling rates are laid down by the Railway Board in exercise of powers conferred on them under clauses (f) and (g) of sub-section (1) of Section 47 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890.

The Railways are authorised to exceed ceiling rates in emergencies.

#### RAILWAY STATION AT NAIGAON

\*1219. **Shrimati Jayashri:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway authorities gave an assurance in 1950, that the demand by the inhabitants of the 14 villages around Naigaon in Bassein Taluka for opening of a new station between Bhayandu

and Bassein Road (Western Railway), would be met as early as possible; and

(b) if so, when the work will be undertaken?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) The Government of Bombay and the Secretary, Naigaon Railway Station Committee were advised in 1950 that efforts would be made to provide for a station at Naigaon in the programme for 1952-53, but no assurance as such was given.

The work could not, however, be included in the Works Programme for 1952-53, or in subsequent years on financial considerations.

(b) It has been decided to place the proposal before the Passenger Amenities Sub-Committee of the Western Railway Users' Consultative Committee for their consideration with a view to its inclusion in the Works Programme of 1955-56.

#### LEMON GRASS OIL AND SANDALWOOD OIL

\*1220. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report from the Agricultural Marketing Adviser with regard to the feasibility of quality control on lemon grass oil and sandalwood oil;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to ensure quality control on export of these commodities?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) and (c). Yes.

(b) (i) To set up a control laboratory at Cochin for analysing check-samples of essential oils.

(ii) To fix label charges @ Rs. 2/8/- and Rs. 12/8/- per 100 lbs. on the export of lemon-grass and sandalwood

oils respectively under the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937. The trade has agreed to these charges.

#### SPICES ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

\*1221. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the main recommendations of the Spices Enquiry Committee?

(b) What action do Government propose to take on these recommendations?

(c) Do Government propose to place a copy of the Report on the Table of the House?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) The Spices Enquiry Committee has made separate recommendations in regard to each of the six Dollar earning crops. The main recommendations of the Committee are (i) Setting up of a Central Development Fund for pepper and cashewnut which are the two most important Dollar earning commodities. The Central Fund would be utilised for developing the production and marketing of these commodities according to an integrated ten year plan; (ii) Special agencies should be set up in U.S.A. and U.K. for the publicity and sales promotion; and (iii) Central and State Advisory Committees to be set up to organise development of spices.

(b) Recommendations of the Committee are being examined in consultation with other Ministries concerned.

(c) The Report of the Committee is under print and as soon as it is available, a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

#### ASSAULT ON RAILWAY PASSENGERS

\*1222. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that three women passengers of the 68 Down Sealdah bound Delhi Express were thrown out of the running train by some intruder between Kashi and Moghalsarai Stations of the Northern 612 PSD.

Railway in the morning hours of the 27th November, 1953?

(b) When did the driver and guard of that train and the Railway authorities of nearest stations come to know about this incident?

(c) When those women were taken to the hospital?

(d) Has the intruder been arrested?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) Yes.

(b) As the train was not stopped the driver and the guard did not become aware of the incident. Railway staff at Kashi, Moghalsarai and Banaras learnt of the incident on the following day.

(c) These women were taken to the Railway Hospital at Moghalsarai at about 5-45 a.m. on 27th. One of them who was seriously injured was soon after removed to the King Edward Hospital, Banaras, at about 6-10 a.m.

(d) Yes.

#### KHANAPUR RAILWAY STATION

514. **Shri Joachim Alva:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what measures Government propose to take to provide shelter against heavy rains to passengers at Khanapur Railway Station?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** A platform shelter is under construction.

#### KHANAPUR RAILWAY STATION

515. **Shri Joachim Alva:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there is no over-bridge at Khanapur Railway Station in Belgaum District of the Bombay State which results in danger to passengers who cross the platform?

(b) What is the number of accidents which occurred last year at the Khanapur Railway Station as a result of this deficiency?