

10 broad gauge wagons of coal consigned to Muktapur Jute Mills were utilised by the North Eastern Railway instead for the urgent replenishment of the railway coal stocks. The railway coal stocks touched a low level due to a setback *inter alia* in the movement of railway coal to the North Eastern Railway. This setback was due to the vagaries of the river Ganga adversely affecting the movement of traffic across it at Mokameh and Bhagalpur Ghats and the restrictions necessitated by the abnormal rush of traffic in connection with the Kumbh Mela.

RETRENCHMENT OF MICA WORKERS

*1241. **Shri Keshavlengar:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government are aware that about 3,000 mica labourers have been discharged in mica mines in Madhya Pradesh?

(b) Have Government received any representations for granting relief to the retrenched workers?

(c) If so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). No.

(c) Does not arise.

कपड़े की मिलें

*१२४२. **सेठ गोविन्द दास:** क्या अम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५३ में कपड़े की कितनी मिलें बन्द हुईं ;

(ख) इन के बन्द होने के फलस्वरूप कितने मजदूर बेकार हुए ; और

(ग) इस काल में पारियां (शिफ्टें) कम होने के कारण कितने मजदूर काम पर से हटाए गये ?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

WIRELESS OPERATORS ON RAILWAYS

*1243. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the licences issued to the Railways by the Posts and Telegraphs Department lay down the condition that the wireless/traffic system on the Railways should be operated only by holders of P. and T. Second class competency or an equivalent certificate;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the existing personnel are in possession of such certificates;

(c) if, however, the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, whether any exemption has been obtained from the P. & T. Department; and

(d) if so, whether this is in conformity with the International Telecommunication Convention?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). P. & T. Department considered it unnecessary for railway wireless operators to pass the qualifying examination but prescribed a standard of efficiency which conforms generally with the Post & Telegraphs Second Class examination and is in conformity with the International Telecommunication Convention.

MINOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN PUNJAB

*1244. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have submitted a list of minor irrigation projects in the Punjab State for the year 1953-54; and

(b) what is the amount that has been granted for the execution of new projects and the development of the existing ones by the Central Government?