

average each month since the opening of the hostel on the 10th February was as under:—

10th to 28th February, 1954	about 17 per cent.
March, 1954	„ 21 per cent.
April, 1954	„ 28 per cent.
May, 1954	„ 23 per cent.
June, 1954	„ 28 per cent.
July, 1954	„ 25 per cent.
August, 1954	„ 29 per cent.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of Government.

#### KRISHNA BRIDGE

\*1254. **Shri Raghuramalah:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central share of the construction cost of the regulator-cum-road bridge over the River Krishna near Vijayawada has been fixed; and

(b) if so, the amount so fixed?

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

(b) Rs. 39.08 lakhs.

#### INDIAN SHIPPING

\*1256. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the total quantity of goods purchased by the Indian Stores Department carried by the Indian Mercantile Shipping during 1953-54; and

(b) the number of ships added to the Indian Mercantile Shipping during the last twelve months?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) About 40 per cent., roughly.

(b) 15 ships of 51,400 gross registered tons during the period from September, 1953 to August, 1954.

#### EMPLOYMENT IN RAILWAYS

\*1258. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an editorial comment in "Amrita Bazar Patrika" (Calcutta edition) dated the 17th August, 1954, regarding absorption in Railway service of the employees of a long established catering concern; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Of these some have been absorbed by Railways in their departmental catering establishments and some more by other contractors.

#### DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN STATES

\*1260. { **Dr. Ram Subbag Singh:**  
**Shri Kasliwal:**  
**Shri P. L. Barupal:**  
**Shri Sadhan Gupta:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the failure of Monsoon has created drought and near drought conditions in certain parts of the country;

(b) if so, the names of the areas where drought conditions prevail; and

(c) the extent to which these drought conditions have caused damage to the crops and fodder?

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

(b) Drought conditions prevail in parts of Orissa, South Bihar, Ajmer, Punjab and West Rajasthan.

(c) It has not so far been possible to assess the extent of damage caused to the crops.

**TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN RAJASTHAN DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS**

**594. Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of District Headquarters in Rajasthan where there are no telegraph offices?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** All the 25 Districts Headquarters have got Telegraph facilities.

**BURDWAN R.M.S. OFFICE**

**595. Shri Ramananda Das:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the accommodation in the building in which the Burdwan R.M.S. office is located is so crammed that it is not possible to place required number of sorting cases there; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) There is scarcity of space in the building in which the Burdwan R. M. S. office is located.

(b) The Postmaster-General, Bihar, is fully alive to the need for more space for this office and has been taking all possible steps to remove the shortage.

**PUNJAB RICE**

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

(a) the total quantity of rice supplied by the Government of Punjab both to the Centre and different States from 1946 to 1953, separately, year-wise; and

(b) what are the rates per maund of different kinds of rice supplied by the Punjab Government?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) The present Punjab State came into existence from 15th August, 1947. The Government of Punjab started exporting rice only from 1949. A statement is placed on the Table of the House showing quantities of rice supplied by Punjab to each State during the years 1949 to 1953. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 9.]

No quantity was supplied to Central Reserve during these years.

(b) Two statements are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 10.]

**ELECTRIFICATION OF PLATFORMS ON THE NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**597. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of Railway Stations and their names on the Northern Railway where electric lighting and installations of fans on platforms have been proposed to be undertaken under the amenities programme chalked out recently?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** 130 Railway stations on the Northern Railway as per enclosed list [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 11], are proposed for Electrification in the Programme for the Passenger Amenities during the years 1954-55 to 1958-59, subject to the availability of funds and Electric Power from the Punjab Grid System or other local sources.

**NON-PAYMENT OF SUGARCANE PRICES**

**598. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large sums of unclaimed sugarcane price have been lying with the sugar factories for years in Bihar and other States;

(b) if so, the amounts lying State-wise;