

(b) whether the allotment has been made from the imported rice; and

(c) the rate per maund charged from the State Government?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). Since August, 1954, 7,000 tons of Bengal rice ex. Punjab and 7,300 tons coarse I rice ex. Madhya Pradesh have been allotted to Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) The rice is being made available to Jammu and Kashmir Government so as to enable them to sell it at Rs. 7/8/- a maund in the Kashmir Valley and Rs. 12/8/- a maund in Jammu.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: Are Government aware that there have been complaints about the quality of rice supplied to the Kashmir Valley? If so, will Government please verify these and issue a statement on the subject?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Such wide complaints we did not receive many, but there was some mention about it in the Press and we will try to take necessary action in the matter. We will enquire and see if any bad quality rice was supplied to them.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: Has the Government verified and come to this conclusion in the matter?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Recently we did not receive any official complaints. We are supplying as far as possible the best rice from the Punjab to Kashmir. But I read some news in the papers and so we will try to take necessary action in the matter.

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH LINES

*635. **Shri B. N. Misra:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the metals used in the overhead wires for the telephone and telegraph lines in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that in many countries of the world, wires made of aluminium metal, are used for such purposes, which is not the case in India; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Iron, Copper and Bronze wires are generally used for overhead telephone and telegraph lines in this country.

(b) It is understood that Aluminium conductors are used to a limited extent, for telegraph and telephone lines in a few countries like France, Italy and Switzerland.

(c) The question of use of Aluminium conductors in India is under examination in the P. & T. Department.

Shri B. N. Misra: May I know how long this examination will take?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is very difficult to indicate any time.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: How does it compare in cost?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The question of comparison in cost will only arise if after investigation we find that we have to use aluminium conductors.

भारतीय जहाजरानी

*629. **सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सन् 1952-53 में तटवर्ती यात्रा और जहाजों द्वारा माल ले जाने से कुल कितनी आय हुई ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The total freight and passenger earnings of Indian shipping companies in the coastal trade during 1953-54 were Rs. 11.93 crores, approximately.