

(b) if so, the charges against them; and

(c) the number of cases where the employee concerned was allowed to appear personally in support of his representation?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a)—

State	Removed in		
	1949	1950	1951
(1) West Bengal	8	20	14
(2) Bihar	7	11
(3) Orissa	2	1
(4) U.P.	2
(5) M.P.	22
(6) Delhi	6	1
(7) East Punjab	1	..
(8) Madras	53	22
(9) Bombay	2
TOTAL	8	89	75

(b) Action was taken against these persons as provided for in rule 3 of the Railway Services (Safeguarding of National Security) Rules.

(c) The standard form of notice served on the employees requires them to state *inter alia* whether they desire to be heard in person by the competent authority or by the committee of advisors. In cases where the employees concerned asked for a personal hearing, it was given to them.

KURSILA RAILWAY BRIDGE

***1356. Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kursila Railway bridge on Mansi-Saharsa Railway Line and railway line from Koparia to Badlaghat remains unsafe for a major part of the year; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to repair the said bridge and improve the railway line from Koparia to Badlaghat on Saharsa-Mansi Railway Line to ensure all weather communication to the said area?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) It is not correct that the railway line from Koparia to Badlaghat remains unsafe for a major part of the year. The trouble

mostly is during the monsoon season from July to October every year.

(b) The Kursila Nulla Bridge is maintained in a good state of repair but an all-weather rail connection cannot be maintained as the course of the river Kosi between Koparia and Badlaghat is unpredictable and no permanent bridges can be built till this becomes stable.

RAILWAY LANDS

***1357. Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fallow lands lying on both the sides of Railway lines are leased on contractual basis for fixed periods; and

(b) if so, how many acres of such lands were leased from 1950 to 1952 and what the total revenue incurred from the owners of such lands was?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) Approximately 42,420 acres of land were leased from 1950 to 1952. Complete information about the total revenue derived for such lands is not available, but from the information so far available it may be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 7 lakhs.

ZONAL OFFICE OF SOUTHERN RAILWAY AT HUBLI

***1358. Shri Datar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the time of the re-grouping of the Railways in the South it was announced by Government that the Zonal Office of the Northern portion of the Southern Railway consisting of metre gauge lines would be located at Hubli;

(b) whether in pursuance of the above decision, the Central Government have purchased from the Bombay Government the labour tenements built by the latter at Hubli; and

(c) when the regional offices of this Northern Zone will be shifted to Hubli from its present temporary location?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Although Hubli was considered more suitable from the point of view of operation, the Headquarters of the Northern Metre Gauge region of the Southern Railway was located for the time being at Mysore, in view of the availability of accommodation and the need for starting with a minimum of staff movements.

(b) The tenements built by the Government of Bombay have been purchased for housing the staff already in Hubli and not in pursuance of any decision relating to the regrouping of the Southern Railway.

(c) As the reasons for preferring Mysore to Hubli still hold good, Government are unable to state when the shift is likely to take place.

PREVENTIVE DETENTION ACT

*1359. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what amount of expenditure the Government of India have incurred in connection with the implementation of the Preventive Detention Act?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The Government of India have incurred no such expenditure since no person was detained under the Act under their orders.

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

*1360. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to have elected Members for the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The matter is under consideration.

DISPLACED P. AND T. EMPLOYEES IN MATAPAN LINES

*1361. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many displaced P. & T. employees are living in the Matapan Lines, P. & T. Transit Camp;

(b) how much floor space has been allotted to each and what amenities are provided in this camp and on what basis;

(c) whether Government have cut their house rent allowance and if so, when it was cut and why;

(d) whether an additional 5 per cent is being cut from their salaries and if so, why; and

(e) when Government propose quartering these employees in proper houses?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 92.

(b) Average area provided is 417 sq. ft.

In the way of amenities, electricity is available and one or two common

water taps, baths and latrines are available for each barrack housing six or seven families.

There are ration and grocery shops on the premises run by private parties. An elementary school run by the New Delhi Municipal Committee exists. A room has been set apart for a Recreation Club.

(c) Yes, House Rent Allowance is being forfeited since December, 1947, when these barracks ceased to be a transit camp.

As a matter of principle, no official who has been provided with Government accommodation is allowed to draw House Rent Allowance.

(d) Yes, generally speaking, rent for accommodation provided by Government is charged at 10 per cent. of the emoluments. But since this accommodation cannot be treated as standard, rent recovery at a concessional rate of 5 per cent., instead of the usual 10 per cent. has been ordered with effect from 1st January, 1950.

(e) Approximately by the end of the next financial year when new quarters are likely to be ready.

WASTE LANDS IN MANIPUR

*1362. **Shri Bishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage of cultivable waste lands in Manipur;

(b) how much of such land has been settled with landless peasants and how much remains uncultivated; and

(c) whether it is the policy of Government to bring the waste land under cultivation?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) It is the policy of Government to encourage the cultivation of cultivable waste lands; even legislative measures are being implemented or are under contemplation for this purpose. The hon. Member will doubtless appreciate, however, that there are sometimes competing demands for the use of these waste lands and when these arise, the question becomes one of priorities and best use to which the land can be put in public interests.