

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

(b) Rice 176,317 tons;

Wheat 14,154 tons;

It will not be in the public interest to disclose just at present the price paid.

MERGER OF MANIPUR AND TRIPURA WITH ASSAM

***532. Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether Manipur and Tripura are to be merged with the State of Assam;

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the approximate date when such an action is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government intend to democratise the Government in the States in deference to public opinion?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of Part C States Act provides for the constitution of a Council of Advisers for the purpose of assisting the Chief Commissioner in the discharge of his functions. The question of appointing such Council is under consideration.

केन नदी पर पुल

***५३३, श्री आर० एस० तिवारी :**

क्या वातायत मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) केंद्रीय सरकार ने केन नदी पर पुल बनाने के लिये यदि धन का प्रावधान किया है तो कितना ;

(ख) पुल बनाने का कार्य कब आरम्भ होगा ; तथा

(ग) यह कार्य कब तक पूरा हो जायेगा ?

BRIDGE OVER RIVER KEN

[*533. Shri R. S. Tiwari: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money, if any, that has been provided by the Central Government for construction of a bridge across the Ken river;

(b) when the construction work is to start; and

(c) by what time would the construction work of this bridge be completed?]

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Rs. 11.65 lakhs have been set aside for a bridge over river Ken on the Satna-Nowgong Road in Vindhya Pradesh to which the hon. Member apparently refers.

(b) Work was commenced in February 1952.

(c) By about the end of 1953.

LOCOMOTIVES

***534. Shri Dhusiya:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many locomotive engines will be imported during the year 1952 and wherefrom?

(b) How many of them have reached India and what is the approximate time of arrival of the rest?

(c) How many of them are for broad gauge and how many for metre gauge?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) to (c). A statement showing the number of locomotives, together with their country of manufacture, received or expected to be received from abroad during the year 1952, separately for each gauge, is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 27.]

TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO RAYALASEEMA

***535. Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the special arrangements made for quick transport of foodgrains and fodder from surplus areas to famine-affected areas of Rayalaseema; and

(b) whether any complaints were received that due to lack of adequate supply of wagons the relief work is hampered and if so, what action has been taken so far?