

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) High priority has been given for the movement of foodgrains and fodder to famine affected areas including Rayalaseema.

(b) No complaint regarding any relief work having been hampered due to lack of adequate supply of wagons for movement of foodgrains and fodder appears to have been received.

COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE CONDITIONS OF BACKWARD CLASSES

***536. Shri J. N. Hazarika:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply to S. Q. 527 asked on 11th August 1950 and state:

(a) whether a Commission under Article 340 of the Constitution has since been appointed;

(b) if so, the names of the personnel; and

(c) the terms of reference?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) to (c). I invite the hon. Member's attention to the speech that I made in the House on the 21st May, 1952.

I.A.S. TRAINING SCHOOL

***537. Prof. Agarwal:** (a) Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether there is any scheme of shifting the existing Indian Administrative Service Training School to a better location and surroundings?

(b) What are the subjects taught in this School?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As will be seen from the Statement laid on the Table, the syllabus covers a wide range of subjects. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 28.]

MOVEMENT OF WAGONS

***538. Shri Raghuramaiah:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from the Chamber of Commerce, Trichur, regarding the slow movement of wagons in the Southern Railway?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to accelerate the movement of wagons in the Southern Railway?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes, but the points mentioned therein were apparently based on incomplete appre-

ciation of the methods of Railway operation. A detailed reply to the representation has been sent.

(b) No special action, particularly on the Southern Railway, is called for, but the ways and means of improving the efficiency of operation towards better utilization of stock and expediting movement, etc., etc., are continually under review of the various Railway administrations and the Railway Board.

WHEAT FROM RUSSIA

***539. Shri Bansal:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and the C. and F. value of wheat imported by India from Russia in the year 1951;

(b) the average landed cost of Russian wheat in India;

(c) whether the landed cost of Russian wheat is higher than the price of wheat imported from other sources including U.S.A., Argentina and Australia; and

(d) if so, the reasons for importing high priced wheat from Russia?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). The quantity imported from Russia in 1951 was one lakh metric tons. This was obtained on barter for tea, shellac, tobacco and jute to be supplied by us and the cost therefore depends on the prices at which we have obtained the commodities to be supplied by us. We have still to supply some of the tobacco and the accounts have not yet been adjusted to enable a precise calculation of the cost to be made.

(c) and (d). When settling the barter terms, we estimated that the cost of the wheat would not be unreasonable bearing in mind the cost from possible alternative sources.

VIJAPUR-KHERALU RAILWAY LINE

***540. Shri S. G. Parikh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government propose to connect Vijapur to Kheralu via Ladol by a railway line?

(b) Are Government aware that former Baroda State had applied to the Railway Board for construction of this Railway line and some preliminary earth work on this line has also been done?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Government had under consideration the pro-