

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-

posal to connect Vijapur to Ransipur by a railway line but the project has been postponed.

(b) The former Baroda State had, in 1920, applied for, and obtained, sanction for the construction of a railway line from Vijapur to Vadnagar. But only a little before the merger of the Baroda State in Bombay, earth work was started by the Baroda Government as a famine relief measure and completed to a certain extent. As the original Government sanction was accorded more than thirty years ago, a fresh examination was thought necessary before further construction was undertaken. It was later decided to postpone the project as it could not be considered to merit sufficient priority from the national standpoint. Preliminary investigations also showed that the project would not be financially justified.

KANGPOKPI-TAMANGLONG ROAD

*542. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) how far the road building from Kangpokpi to the Hill Sub-Division of Tamanglong in Manipur State has progressed;

(b) the amount invested in the road development Scheme for Manipur State; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the road under construction, after touching Tamanglong Sub-Division will be diverted towards Tiribom Sub-Division of Manipur, which has no communications at all to link up with any administrative units of the State?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Work on the first 26 miles of the road from Kangpokpi was commenced on 15th March 1952 and so far about 32 per cent. of the earth work has been carried out. Detailed estimates and plans for the remaining section (52 miles) are under preparation.

(b) The five-year road development plan for Manipur State includes a tentative provision of Rs. 25 lakhs for this road, out of a total provision of Rs. 81.25 lakhs.

(c) There is no proposal at present to extend the road beyond Tamanglong.

COMMISSIONER FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

*543. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commissioner for the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes has concluded his fact-finding tour;

(b) whether he has submitted any interim report; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the salient features of the said report?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has submitted a report, as required under Article 338(2) of the Constitution.

(c) The report is under examination and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

*544. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission have been accepted as far as the Ministerial staff of the Railways are concerned?

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

MOVEMENT OF RICE AND CATTLE BETWEEN MANIPUR AND ASSAM

*545. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there is no effective control on the movement of rice and cattle between Manipur and Assam?

(b) What steps have been taken to ensure a fair price for rice-growers in Manipur?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) There is effective control over movement of rice between Manipur and Assam. No restrictions, however, exist on movement of cattle between these States.

(b) With a view to giving the rice-growers, as distinct from the middleman, a fair price, the State Government have fixed procurement price of rice at Rs. 11 per maund from January, 1952 as against Rs. 7/2/- to Rs. 10/13/- per maund in 1951.

D. M. COLLEGE STRIKE

*546. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that troops were called out and firing resorted to, during the D. M. College strike at Imphal?