

SUPPLY OF WAGONS TO SAKHIGOPAL RAILWAY STATION

*1635. **Pandit Lingaraj Misra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received any complaints from the producers or traders of cocoanut in the Puri District regarding irregular supply of wagons to the Sakhigopal Railway Station, in the former B.N.R., for transport of cocoanut;

(b) whether it is a fact that under the existing classification of goods for priority of despatch, cocoanut has been classed as an oil-seed rather than as perishable food;

(c) whether it is a fact that the cocoanut grown in this part of the country is used more as food than as copra;

(d) whether there is any proposal under consideration for upgrading the priority of cocoanut for supply of wagons; and

(e) what is the average monthly requirement of wagons at the Sakhigopal Railway Station for this purpose?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes. A few representations in this regard were received last year from the Secretary, Sakhigopal Cocoanut Growers' Co-operative Society, Sakhigopal.

(b) No. Cocoanuts are not treated as perishables. They fall in the category of 'non-preferential' traffic. Wagons, as available, are supplied to consignors in the order of the registration of their indents, consistent with the Preferential Traffic Schedule, i.e. traffic entitled to any preferential treatment according to the comparative order of preference prescribed in the General and Special Orders issued under section 27-A of the Indian Railways Act, 1890.

(c) Yes. Cocoanuts grown in Puri District are mostly used for edible purposes in the fresh state.

(d) No.

(e) Approximately 50 wagons.

"WHEAT FOR RICE DEAL" WITH PAKISTAN

*1636. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Wheat for Rice Deal' has been recently concluded with the Government of Pakistan;

(b) if so, what is the quantity of wheat that has been transferred to Pakistan under this deal and what is

the quantity of rice that has been obtained in exchange; and

(c) what are the prices current in Indian markets of the qualities of rice and wheat so exchanged?

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

(b) The barter is of 39,700 tons of U.S.A. wheat for 37,700 tons of Sind rice.

(c) As the qualities of wheat and rice exchanged differ from those produced in India, it would not be proper to compare their prices.

विन्ध्य प्रदेश में रेलवे लाइन

१६३७ श्री बी० डी० शास्त्री : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि विन्ध्य प्रदेश में कुल कितने मील लम्बी रेलवे लाइन बिछी हुई है ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The total mileage of railway lines in Vindhya Pradesh is 292.

MALNAD DEVELOPMENT BOARD

*1638. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) when the Malnad Development Board was constituted and with what object;

(b) whether any reports have been received from the Board so far; and

(c) the amount expended for the Board, so far?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The hon. Member is presumably referring to the Central Malnad Planning Committee which was appointed by the Government of India in October, 1950. If so, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Government of India Resolution No. F.14-10/50-GMF(Co.), dated the 5th October, 1950, a copy of which is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 3.]

(b) Yes. An interim report was received in December, 1950. The Committee has since been wound up.

(c) Rupees 2271/3/-.

DELEGATION TO F. A. O. MEETINGS

*1639. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state: