

American News Agency to set up Teleprinter in India?

(b) If so, has the Agency started work?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Government have simply leased some teleprinter channels to United Press Associations, an American News Agency. It is incorrect to say that the Agency has been allowed to set up teleprinters in India.

(b) Does not arise. The News Agency has been functioning in India since the war and therefore long before the channels were leased.

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS (REFUSAL)

133. Shri Badshah Gupta: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any offers for the supply of foodgrains by any country to India were refused by the Union Government during the period between 1st January, 1951 and 21st May, 1952; and

(b) if so, what were the reasons of the refusal to take delivery thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). The Government of Viet Nam had in May last offered a quota of 5000 tons of rice per month for May, June and July, 1952 for purchase through Commercial Channels. As the price of rice prevailing in Viet Nam was very high, the offer was not accepted.

FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR THE ANDAMANS

134. Shri B. R. Bhagat: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved of a Five Year Plan for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, what are the main items of the Plan; and

(c) the capital cost proposed to be incurred on the Plan?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) to (c). Government have been considering a scheme for clearing during a period of 5 years, some 20,000 acres of forest land in the Andamans and the settlement thereon of agriculturist families.

The financial implications of the scheme, which includes also the building of roads, schools, dispensaries etc., are being examined.

TICKETLESS TRAVELLING

135. Pandit M. B. Bhargava: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ticketless passengers detected on the different railway lines during the year 1951-52;

(b) the amount of the fare and penalty recovered on this account by the railway administration during the year 1951-52;

(c) the number of passengers convicted for ticketless travel during 1951-52 and the amount of fine realised; and

(d) what was the total expense incurred by the railway administration during the year 1951-52 on account of the extra staff employed by the railway administration for the purpose?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) 79,00,918.

(b) Rs. 1,65,58,180.

(c) Number of passengers convicted 1,59,486. Fines realised Rs. 4,57,064.

(d) Rs. 9,16,240.

IMPORT OF MILO

136. Shri Raghavaiah: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the quantity of milo imported from America during the years 1948-1951?

(b) How much is being spent on the purchase of the milo?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The quantity of milo imported from America during the calendar years 1948 to 1951 is as follows:—

1948	... 2.02 lakh tons.
1949	... 3.57 " "
1950	... 3.44 " "
1951	... 5.89 " "

(b) It is estimated that 6.62 lakh tons of milo which is proposed to be imported this year will cost approximately Rs. 29 crores.

RE-MODELLING OF STATIONS ON WESTERN RAILWAY

137. Shri M. M. Gandhi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the station of Godhra, Panchmahals Dis-

trict on Western Railway is to be remodelled;

(b) whether the expenditure for the same is included in budget for 1952-53; and

(c) whether the work will be taken in hand this year?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The proposal for the remodelling of this station is under consideration.

(b) and (c). No.

RAILWAY CLAIMS

138. Shri Ramananda Das: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total amount of compensation and claims paid by Railways on account of (i) theft of property of private parties; (ii) loss of properties of private parties; and (iii) damages of property in 1951-52?

(b) What steps have the Government of India taken to avert it?

(c) In how many cases the culprits have been detected?

(d) How many of them have been punished in Courts?

(e) How many officers and other employees of the Railways were found guilty and how many of them have been punished?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The information in the form asked for by the hon. Member is not readily available and is being specially compiled. It will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as ready.

LIVESTOCK

139. Shri Jhulan Sinha: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far for improvement of livestock in India;

(b) the number of milch cattle available in India;

(c) the number of milch cattle slaughtered every year showing separately the number of cows and she-buffaloes; and

(d) the number of draught cattle specially bulls available in the country

and the number required for meeting the needs of agriculture?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The measures taken by Government in connection with the work of 'lives-stock improvement are:—

- (1) Research relating to the breeding of pedigree stock, prevention and treatment of contagious animal diseases, preparation of vaccines and sera, artificial insemination, animal nutrition and dairying, is being conducted at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar and Mukteswar, and the Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore. The results of research are made known to the public and to the State Governments from time to time.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research also have financed and continue to finance several schemes of research for improvement of livestock in the country. Reports of the Council containing details of the work undertaken and results obtained are available in the Library of the House.

A comprehensive plan for the development of cattle in India has been included in the National Plan and is being implemented.

- (2) Arrangements exist for the collection and dissemination of timely information in regard to outbreaks of animal diseases with a view to enable the State Governments and the public, to take steps to control the diseases and to prevent their spreading out.
- (3) Under the Livestock Importation Act of 1898 enacted by the Central Government, the import of livestock is controlled and measures are taken by the State Governments to ensure that no new diseases are introduced into India.

(b) 19.7 millions excluding milch buffaloes.

(c) Information is not available with Government.