

(b) 3,43,300 acres according to information given by the various State Governments under the G. M. F. Programme. This does not include lands which would be reclaimed by private parties without Government assistance.

(c) The Central Government advances loans to State Governments for the purchase of tractors and equipment as part of their State Tractor Units or for advancing loans to private agriculturists for the purchase of such equipment. The Central Tractor Organisation of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture also undertakes reclamation of kans or forest lands on payment of charges which are calculated on a 'no-profit no-loss' basis. The State Governments on their part hire out the State tractors on a 'no-profit no-loss' basis or at a subsidized rate.

RISE IN PRICES OF FOODGRAINS IN BOMBAY ETC.

*54. **Shrimati Jayashri:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of rationed foodgrains such as wheat and rice have gone up in Bombay, Poona and Ahmedabad since the beginning of April, 1952; and

(b) what steps Government intend to take to bring down the prices of these rationed food-grains?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, in case of overseas wheat, milo and overseas and indigenous rice.

(b) Government are very much alive to the problem of high prices and have the question constantly under review.

DEATH OF RAILWAY WORKERS AT GORAKHPUR

*56. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken against those persons who caused the death of two railway workers on 25th April, 1952 at Gorakhpur and inflicted injuries on twenty other railway workers; and

(b) what compensation will be given to those who have suffered as a consequence of the use of fire-arms?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) and (b). The regrettable incidents referred to arose as the result of action taken by the authorities of the State Government in discharge of their responsibilities for the maintenance of law and order. The questions, therefore, primarily concern the State Government. Incidentally one of the two persons who died was not a railway servant and the total number who sustained injuries was fifteen.

SHEDS FOR JHANSI RAILWAY STATION

*57. **Shri Dhulekar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government sanctioned the construction of sheds on the platforms of the Jhansi Railway Station; and

(b) what is the reason for the delay in taking up the construction?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) and (b). The project for roofing the portions of platform at Jhansi, where trains are received, along with other passenger amenity works, has been programmed for 1953-54 and the question of delay, therefore, does not arise.

EASTERN ZONE (OFFICES)

*58. **Shri U. C. Patnaik:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is the total mileage of railway line of the Eastern Railway (re-grouped zone) passing respectively through the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Madras, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar?

(b) Where is the Head office of this Eastern Zone to be located and where are the Divisional Superintendents' offices to be located in each of the five States?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Route mileage of the Eastern Railway passing through different States is as under:

- (i) West Bengal, 1275 miles.
- (ii) Orissa, 837 miles.
- (iii) Madras, 251 miles.
- (iv) Madhya Pradesh, 1253 miles.
- (v) Bihar, 1824 miles.

(b) The Head Office is located at Calcutta. The headquarters of the