

arrangements with the Government of Pakistan to work out this Brahmaputra transport system affecting the States of Assam and West Bengal?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I shall require notice.

Shri A. C. Guha: In the statement that was supplied to me it was stated that some Inland Steamer companies are also interested in this Board. May I know what those Inland Steamer companies are and whether they would make any contribution to this Board?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I require notice.

PASSENGER AMENITIES COMMITTEE

*136. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special passenger Amenities Committee has been formed for each of the Railways;

(b) if so, what will be its functions; and

(c) what will be the constitution of this committee?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) A passenger amenities committee has already been set up on the Central Railway and arrangements are being made to form similar committees also on other Railways.

(b) The functions of these committees will be to examine collectively the recommendations of all the Local Advisory Committees of a Railway or those emanating from the Railway itself or from other sources in regard to the provision of passenger amenities and to advise the General Manager on the necessity and the order of priority of the various amenity works.

(c) The committees will consist of the General Manager, the Heads of the Engineering, the operating and the Commercial Departments and two or three members from each of the local Advisory Committees of the Railway.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether this Committee will involve any extra expenditure?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Of course; T.A., D.A., etc., will involve extra expenditure.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the composition of this committee?

Shri L. B. Shastri: If the hon. Member puts down a question, I shall answer.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether representatives of Trade Unions will be represented on this committee to give advice on the various amenities that could be provided with the co-operation of labour?

Shri L. B. Shastri: No decision has been taken so far; but I propose to consider the matter.

PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS BY MECHANICAL POWER

*137. **Shri Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total quantity of foodgrains produced on land cultivated by mechanical power and what its percentage is compared with total production of foodgrains?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Estimates of foodgrains produced on land cultivated by mechanical power are available in respect of the areas taken under the Grow More Food Campaign only. In such areas, the total production of foodgrains from mechanical cultivation was about 2 lakh tons in each of the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 forming about 0.5 per cent. of the all-India production of cereals. Similar estimates for 1951-52 are not yet available.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: What is the comparative cost of production by mechanical power and by other ordinary handpower?

Shri Kidwai: I require notice of that question.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Has the Government compared the results obtained by intensive production by ordinary methods with those by the mechanical method?

Shri Kidwai: Of course, the cost must have been compared. But I have not got the information here before me. The question was only about the quantity. It was not presumed that it would lead to cost, comparison etc.

Shri Nand Lal Sharma: What is the total amount of expenditure incurred on the use of mechanical power.

Shri Kidwai: I have not got that.

TREATMENT OF BAMBOOS

*138. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an effective prophylactic treatment