

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

of bamboos for protection against insect attack has been developed at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** Yes.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, whether the process of prophylactic treatment has been developed on an economical and commercial basis?

**Shri Kidwai:** Well, it has been tried by our army and about the cost there is no mention. I couldn't reply to the hon. Member's question.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, whether the treatment will be repeated on some kinds of wood?

**Shri Kidwai:** It has been tried on Bamboo; it will be efficacious on wood also.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, how long the treatment will last and how it compares with the tar treatment?

**Shri Kidwai:** It has been considered to be an improvement on tar treatment.

**Shri J. N. Hazarika:** May I know the varieties of bamboos experimented?

**Shri Kidwai:** I am not much aware of the varieties of Bamboos.

#### RATIONING OF RICE

**\*139. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States in India where the people are predominantly rice-eating;

(b) which of the States in India are observing austerity rationing of rice; and

(c) which of the States take the highest ration of rice and the amount of daily ration per capita per day?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) The States where the people are predominantly rice-eating are:—Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Orissa, Eastern U.P., West Bengal, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin, Coorg, Manipur, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar.

(b) All the States are observing the maximum possible austerity in the issue of rice. None except habitual rice-eater gets more than 4 ozs of rice ration anywhere in the country.

(c) In the statutorily rationed areas, the highest ration of rice for rice eaters is 7 ozs in Madras, 6 ozs. in the States of Assam, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin, Delhi and Andaman-Nicobar.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** With reference to part (b), may I know in which States voluntary austerity rationing is prevalent?

**Shri Kidwai:** Austerity rationing is confined to rice-eating people.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** In view of the shortage of rice, would the hon. Minister be pleased to state if the Government are envisaging any scheme of not supplying rice ration to the States which are not habitually rice-eating and giving it to the States who are habitually so?

**Shri Kidwai:** In some parts it has been done. In other States the matter has been taken up with them.

**Shri M. A. Ayyangar:** Has the Government of Madras requested this Government to permit them to issue 8 ounces instead of 7 ounces in view of the fact that in Madras State they do not eat wheat but depend entirely on rice?

**Shri Kidwai:** I am not aware of any such request. But I understand that the Madras Government is considering the question of raising the rice ration.

**Shri N. S. Nair:** Are the Government aware that though in Travancore-Cochin districts the ration is 6 ounces, not more than 4 ounces of rice are given to the people at large on an average?

**Shri Meghmad Saha:** Has the hon. Minister's attention been drawn to the fact that rice-eating States are going Communist and will he consider prohibiting the eating of rice in those States?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri M. A. Ayyangar:** May I ask the hon. Minister if any attempt is being made to divert wheat that is being supplied to Madras to non-rice eating areas and get rice from Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and other wheat-eating areas?

**Shri Kidwai:** I am afraid these questions are all suggestions. They do not expect an answer from me.

#### AIR ACCIDENT NEAR NAGPUR (ENQUIRY)

**\*140. Shri A. C. Guha:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the enquiry into the