

over the lines, where Messrs. A. H. Wheeler and Co. enjoy monopoly now; and

(f) whether the railway administration exercises any control or check over the prices of books and/or periodicals charged by the above concern?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The firm of Messrs. A. H. Wheeler and Co. hold licenses for running bookstalls on the Eastern, North Eastern, Central, Western and Northern Railways. On the two last mentioned Railways there are also other contractors running such stalls and on the Southern Railway this firm has no book-stalls.

(b) This firm has had licenses for running book-stalls over the Eastern, the Central and parts of the Northern Railways for over 50 years and over the North Eastern and Western Railways for nearly 30 years.

(c) The amount received by way of royalty from the firm during 1950-51 was about Rs. 50,000. No rent is charged as distinct from royalty.

(d) As recommended by the Central Advisory Council for Railways, the licensing system as opposed to the tender system is followed in awarding bookstall contracts.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to (d) above.

(f) Yes.

BILASPUR-MANDLA RAILWAY LINE

***261. Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the earth work for a railway line from Bilaspur to Mandla was completed some years back and since then no work has been done?

(b) Will Government be pleased to inform the House when the said work will be taken up?

(c) Is it also a fact that the earth work for the railway line from Barwadih (E.I.R.) to Chirimiri (B.N. Ry.) was completed in year 1948 and since then it has been stopped?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) No earth work was done for railway line from Bilaspur-Mandla except for about 15 miles in the year 1900, between Bilaspur and Khawarda. This work was done as a famine relief measure.

(b) No construction for the Railway line between Bilaspur and Mandla is contemplated at present.

(c) Major portion of earth work for

the Barwadih-Sarnadih section of the Barwadih-Chirimiri project was completed in February, 1950. Since then the work has been suspended and it has been decided to review the project in October, 1952.

MINOR IRRIGATION SCHEME

***263. Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have decided to reduce their grants for small irrigation projects with effect from the current financial year,

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) whether this has led to corresponding reduction of grants by the State Government also; and

(d) whether this would affect the "Grow More Food" campaign?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No. There is no reduction in the quantum of financial assistance for small irrigation schemes, but in case of private schemes like the sinking and repairs to wells, tanks, etc., a reduction is made in the percentage of subsidy with a view to gradually reduce spoon feeding to the farmers and finance G.M.F. Schemes by means of loans only. So far as the public schemes of minor irrigation are concerned the basis of financial assistance remains unchanged.

(b) 25 per cent. in case of private schemes.

(c) Not necessarily. If any State Government propose to give subsidy at a higher percentage they can always do so out of their own budget.

(d) No.

DARWHA-PUSAD RAILWAY LINE

***264. Shri G. S. Bharati:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state when the dismantled railway line between Darwha and Pusad will be restored?

(b) What is the present stage of construction of this restoration?

(c) Has any provision been made for this in the budget for the year 1952-53?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The question of restoration of the dismantled line between Darwha and Pusad was reconsidered by the Central Board of Transport at their meeting held on 29th August 1950 and the restoration was not agreed to.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

MERGER OF MOUNT ABU WITH RAJASTHAN

*265. **Shri G. D. Somani:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Resolution passed unanimously by the Legislature of the State of Rajasthan requesting the President to merge Mount Abu in the State of Rajasthan; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take or are taking in the matter?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). A copy of the Resolution has been received by the Government of India. Action on the resolution is under consideration.

SUPPLY OF WATER TO RAYAGODA TOWN

34. **Shri Sanganna:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Railway Authorities (B. N. Railway) have agreed to supply water to the Rayagoda town on payment?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what will be the approximate date of putting the agreement into effect?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

MOBILE RADIO SERVICES

35. **Shri P. N. Rajabhoj:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many licences were issued during the year 1951-52 for mobile radio services?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The numbers of licenses issued for mobile radio services during 1951 and 1952 were as follows:—

	1951	1952 upto 22-5-52
(a) Maritime mobile service	103	109
(b) Aeronautical mobile service.	193	205
(c) Land mobile service	963	964
	1259	1278

BERAR DIVISION (TELEPHONES)

36. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what steps are being taken to connect by telephone such places as Daryapur, Achalpur, Morsi, Darwha, Pandharkarvada, Chikhli, Chandur Railway and Murtizapur in the Berar division of Madhya Pradesh?

(b) Is there any plan to connect them?

(c) If so, by what time will the work be completed?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) to (c). Public Call Offices already exist at Murtizapur, Chandur and Achalpur and these places are already connected to the all-India trunks. The rest of the places are not yet so connected.

It is proposed to connect Darwha to the all-India trunk network during the current financial year. Regarding other places, the schemes are unremunerative and there is no proposal to take them up for the present unless a guarantee is furnished.

PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS IN MADHYA PRADESH

37. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the target of procurement for the State of Madhya Pradesh of *juar*, wheat and rice for the year 1952-53?

(b) What was the quantity procured in each case up to 30th April, 1952?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Madhya Pradesh Government's procurement target of *juar*, wheat and rice for 1952 is 40,000 tons, 13,000 tons and 226,000 tons respectively.

(b) Against the above targets 61,982 tons of *juar*, 7,561 tons of wheat and 152,735 tons of rice have been procured between 1-1-52 and 26-4-52.

LOCUST MENACE

38. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Iran have requested the Government of India for immediate assistance in meeting the locust situation in that country; and