

ceived thrice weekly. R.M.S. sections Rangia and Rangpara North are working partly. The Sections which were previously working between Dhubri and Bengaigaon have been extended to Bijni. A sorting section is now working between Amingaon and Pathsaia. The Sections working between Alipur Duar and Gauhati continue to be under suspension. Mail communication with Tura Post Office in the Garo Hills and Motor Service to Goalpara and Manakchar have been fully restored. Mails for and from section working between Dhubri and Bijni are being exchanged through Jogigopa and Goalpara. Mail arrangements in other parts viz. South of the Brahmaputra, Cachar and Lushai Hill district are normal. Telecommunication services have been restored fully in the Assam area and the working is now normal subject only to the usual day-to-day interruptions. Further, in connection with the flood relief operations, civil aircrafts have been carrying a number of sorties for carrying food supplies and transporting stranded persons since 16th July 1952. A statement giving the details is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XI, annexure No. 3.]

7. Up to the 25th July 1952, agricultural loans to the extent of Rs. 3,81,500; gratuitous relief to the extent of Rs. 2,05,150 and Test relief to the extent of Rs. 8,600 have been granted by the Government of Assam.

8. The erosion at Dibrugarh and Sadiya still continues but on a less serious scale compared to the erosion caused by the floods during the last two years. The erosion is likely to be intensified with the fall of the river.

Jonab Amjad Ali rose—

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. Members know that having called for a statement and the statement having been made, it is not our practice here to allow supplementaries.

Jonab Amjad Ali: I want clarification on one or two points in the statement.

Mr. Speaker: But if he wants further information.....

Jonab Amjad Ali: No, Sir, only clarification. Will the hon. Minister in charge of Communications be pleased to say whether the overhead wires between Cooch-Bihar and Gauhati have been restored?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Telecommunications have been restored in full.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: May I know whether it is a fact that the headquar-

ters of Sadiya have been shifted to Teju on account of Sadiya being under water and if so, has it been possible for the people of Sadiya to come back to it now from Teju?

Shri Nanda: There is no further information on the subject.

Jonab Amjad Ali: Is it under the contemplation of Government to find out ways and means of preventing a recurrence of floods in Assam?

Shri Nanda: Certainly.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

T. T. E.

*2302. **Shri Frank Anthony:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board allotted 26 posts to T. T. E's. (Travelling Ticket Examiners) to the B. N. Railway in the prescribed scale A;

(b) whether this allotment should have been given effect to from the 1st January, 1947;

(c) the reasons for the Railway Board changing its original orders;

(d) whether former District Inspectors were redesignated T. T. E's and put into the prescribed A scale although they were all men drawing much above the prescribed A scale;

(e) whether the District Inspectors although re-designated T. T. E's continued to function in their old supervisory capacity and are not, in fact, doing the work of T. T. E's; and

(f) whether the Joint Advisory Committee had agreed that the interpretation of the C. P. C. recommendations had created a grievance and suggested its correction?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The Railway Board allotted 36 posts on the ex-B. N. Railway to grade "A" of the prescribed scales of pay applicable to Travelling Ticket Examiners. These 36 posts included 26 posts previously designated as Travelling Ticket Inspectors, Grade I.

(b) The staff electing the prescribed scales of pay were eligible to draw pay in those scales of pay from 1st January 1947 or 16th August 1947 according to the date they elected.

(c) The original orders were subsequently changed mainly because it was found that the original allocation to the various grades of Travelling Ticket Examiners was defective.

(d) Yes, because in the scheme of prescribed scales the designation of

Travelling Ticket Examiners only was retained. The prescribed scales of pay are generally lower than the pre-1931 scales of pay in the cases of higher-paid staff but higher than the post-1931 scales. The pre-1931 employees had, however, an option to retain the pre-1931 scales of pay.

(e) The introduction of the prescribed scales did not involve any change in the duties of the Travelling Ticket Examining staff including the District Inspectors.

(f) The Joint Advisory Committee considered the question of the number of posts to be allocated to the higher grades in the light of the recommendation of the Central Pay Commission that it would be fair that the number of posts in the intermediate grades was fixed reasonably large so as not to block far too many in the lowest grade. They suggested certain re-allocation of posts in the case of Travelling Ticket Examiners also, and these have been accepted by Government and implemented on the ex-B. N. Railway.

DIRECT RECRUITMENT TO RAILWAY SERVICES

*2304. **Shri N. S. Nair:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any vacancies in the higher grades of Railway employees have been filled up by direct recruitment and if so, what percentage; and

(b) whether it is the policy of Government to recruit a definite percentage of Railway employees from outside by direct recruitment?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Excepting a very few cases wherein direct recruitment to intermediate grades was specifically permitted, all vacancies in the higher grades were filled by promotion.

(b) The question is under consideration.

PUBLIC MEETINGS IN AGARTALA

*2307. **Shri Biren Dutt:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any instructions from the Central Government not to allow any public meeting within the Municipal area of Agartala, Tripura; and

(b) whether the Darbar ground, a conventional public meeting place in Agartala, Tripura has been prohibited by the Central Government to be used for the purpose of Public meetings?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). The

Central Government have not issued any instructions on either of these matters.

COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO WAYS AND MEANS TO DEAL WITH CORRUPTION CASES

*2310. **Paadit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a small Committee of some senior Secretaries of the Central Secretariat was appointed to find out ways and means to deal with the cases of corruption, misconduct and indiscipline of Government Servants expeditiously; and

(b) what were the recommendations of the Committee; if any?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States: (a) and (b). An informal Committee of officers, including some senior Secretaries, was set up some time ago, but the terms of reference were very much more restricted than the hon. Member's question implies. The Committee was only asked to examine whether it was possible and necessary to simplify the procedure at present prescribed for the conduct of disciplinary proceedings against Government servants. As the matter depended very largely on an authoritative interpretation to article 311 (2) of the Constitution, the Committee was compelled to postpone its recommendations pending the necessary legal advice which has only recently been received.

In this connection, the hon. Members' attention is also invited to the answer given by me on the 5th June 1952 to the Unstarred Question No. 96 tabled by Shri M. L. Dwivedi.

CULTIVATION OF TOBACCO

*2310-A. **Paadit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the different varieties of tobacco grown in India for different purposes;

(b) the variety which is used for Hookah, chewing and snuff and the States where it is produced;

(c) the variety used for the manufacture of bidis and the place where it is grown;

(d) the total produce of tobacco in India per year and the estimated value of it; and

(e) the acreage under tobacco cultivation in India at present and whether it is increasing or decreasing in recent years?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House showing the different varieties of tobacco