

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The Government have decided to establish Railway Users' Consultative Committees on a regional basis in place of the existing Advisory Committees. The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative.

(b) Yes.

(c) Arrangements are usually made for Members of Parliament to be shown round railway workshops, etc. when a request is received from them by the authorities concerned.

FOOD POSITION

*893. Shri Basappa: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the present stock of food grains in India;

(b) the position as regards supplies of food grains from foreign countries;

(c) the procurement of food grains so far in those State Governments where there is control; and

(d) whether any new contracts for import of food grains have been entered into after May, 1952 and if so, with whom and for what quantities?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 21.81 lakh tons on 15th November 1952.

(b) From 1st January to the 31st October, 1952 about 37.24 lakh tons of foodgrains have been imported from abroad and during the remaining two months of the year viz., November and December, about 1.6 lakh tons are expected to arrive.

(c) 31.73 lakh tons upto 15th November 1952.

(d) Yes. A statement showing the details is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The contracts made for import of foodgrains with Foreign countries from 1st June, 1952 to the end of October, 1952

Name of Country	Commodity	Quantity in long tons
(1) Australia	Wheat and flour	50,000 tons (12,500 tons of this will be in the form of flour)
(2) Argentina	Wheat	Quantity cannot be disclosed
(3) Canada	Wheat	300,000 tons
(4) U. S. A.	Wheat	95,000 tons
"	Milo	57,000 tons
(5) Burma	Rice	50,000 tons
(6) China	Rice	40,230 tons
(7) Pakistan	Rice	37,700 tons

METRE GAUGE RAILWAY LINES

*894. Shri Basappa: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals to connect the metre gauge lines running between Bangalore and Mysore, or between Bangalore and Poona with broad gauge lines; and

(b) if so, when Government will take up these works?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shobuawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The Metre gauge lines running between Bangalore and Mysore and Bangalore and Poona are already connected with broad gauge lines.

EXPORT OF RICE FROM MANIPUR

*895. Shri L. J. Singh: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have statistics firstly of the procure-

ment of rice by the Manipur Government in the year 1952, secondly tonnage of rice exported through Supply Office after procurement and thirdly the tonnage of rice exported by private individuals by permits, by making collection from local markets?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, do Government propose to maintain such statistics in future?

(c) Is it a fact that rice was indiscriminately exported by Government after the Manipur Government began seizing rice on account of scarcity?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what steps have Government contemplated against those officials who were responsible for such export?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir, only 58 tons were exported to Kohima which is generally fed by Manipur.

(d) Does not arise.

COACHES AND WAGONS

*896, **Shri Viswantha Reddy**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the wagons and the passenger coaches that are imported as complete wagons or coaches, or, in parts, and assembled in this country?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahaawaz Khan): Wagons are mostly imported in semi knocked down condition and are assembled in India. Passenger coaches are imported as fully erected some with and some without internal furnishing and fittings.

RAILWAY COMPARTMENT (SEATS)

*897, **Shri Teikkar**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rule pertaining to the number of passengers to be seated in a railway compartment, carriage, coach or bogey followed strictly; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the difficulties in the way?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahaawaz Khan): (a) Although the maximum number of passengers which may be carried in a compartment in a train is exhibited in the compartment, it has not been practicable to ensure that this number is not exceeded.

(b) The principal difficulty is the paucity of coaching stock.

BANGALORE-HYDERABAD NATIONAL HIGHWAY

*898, **Shri P. Ramaswamy**: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trunk Road between Bangalore and Hyderabad via Kurnool has been included in the Scheme of National Highways;

(b) whether it is a fact that on this Highway the traffic is obstructed for want of bridges over the Rivers Tungabhadra and Krishna; and

(c) when Government propose to complete this Highway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The road between Bangalore and

Hyderabad is included in the present provisional National Highway Scheme but it has not yet been decided whether the alignment of the National Highway should run via Kurnool or Raichur.

(b) Yes, if the route via Kurnool is finally accepted. But if the final route is via Raichur, a bridge over the Tungabhadra only will be required as the Krishna is already bridged.

(c) It is expected that the National Highway will be fit for all-weather through traffic by the end of 1957-58. The Mysore State have, however, not joined the National Highway Scheme under the Federal Financial Integration arrangements and therefore, the development of the portion of the road near Bangalore in that State is the responsibility of that State and not of the Central Government.

RAMGUNDAM-BALLADULA RAILWAY LINE

*899, **Shri P. Ramaswamy**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the ex-N.S. Railway had surveyed in 1946 and 1947 track for a railway line from Ramgundam on Central Railway to Ballardula in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) what is the present position; and

(c) whether Government will consider its early execution?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, the ex-N.S. Railway carried out an engineering survey for this railway line in 1949. No traffic survey was, however, undertaken.

(b) and (c). It is not intended to proceed any further with this project at present.

MACHERA-SECUNDERABAD RAILWAY LINE

*900, **Shri P. Ramaswamy**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a Metre gauge Railway line connecting Machera on Southern Railway to Secunderabad on Central Railway via Nalgonda; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, when will the Engineering Survey be made?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.