

No. 8 is Udaipur-Kherwara-Bichiwara-Ratanpur-Himmatnagar- Ahmedabad-Bombay, and the Bichiwara-Modasa road is not a National Highway. The progress on the construction of the missing links on the National Highway is satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Tenders for the construction of a bridge over the Som at Kagdar have been called for recently, and the work is expected to be commenced shortly.

Shri Beekha Bhai: May I know the total mileage of roads which have been fully constructed as part of the National Highway No. 8?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: As I said, the only missing link was the 22 miles that is being constructed.

Shri Beekha Bhai: May I know the time by which the construction work of the bridge will begin and will be completed?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: All the estimates are ready. The material is being collected and we hope that the bridge will be constructed within eighteen months from the day it starts.

Shri Beekha Bhai: May I know, Sir, the reason for the delay which has taken place in erecting this bridge?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: In order to construct any bridges, the railway engineers have to be most careful to select the proper site.

MAIZE HYBRID

*200. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a U.S. maize hybrid has yielded more grain as compared to the yield of a leading Indian maize variety in a test carried out at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi;

(b) how much more yield it has given;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to import these hybrid seeds in large quantities; and

(d) if so, in what quantity and at what rate?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) 15.5 mds. per acre.

(c) and (d). Due to very high cost of seed it was thought inadvisable to import foreign hybrids in large quantities but to produce our own hybrid seed.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know, Sir, if this variety of seed is proposed to be tried in some particular areas in India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This is still in an experimental stage. It will be tried as an experiment for the time being, but we want to intensify the research.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether in view of the heavy cost that this variety of seed entails, Government have given up the idea of importing it?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, not altogether. We import sometimes in limited quantities.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government have any information about the specific species of plants from which this hybrid is evolved, and whether under the Government of India, any steps have been taken to evolve this hybrid in India under Indian conditions?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, that is the effort. We want to raise this under Indian conditions.

RAILWAY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

*201. **Shri Lakshmidhar Jena:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Service Commissions that have been constituted for recruitment of railway staff throughout India;

(b) the names of places where their headquarters are situated;

(c) whether there is any such Railway Service Commission in Calcutta; and

(d) if so, the name of the Railway to which it pertains?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Four.

(b) Calcutta, Bombay, Allahabad and Madras.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Railway Service Commission, Calcutta recruits Class III staff for the Eastern Railway, the Pandu region of the North Eastern Railway and the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works.

Shri Lakshmidhar Jena: May I know whether it is a fact that the Eastern Railways are running throughout the entire State of Orissa?

Shri Alagesan: It covers the State of Orissa and other States as well.

Shri Lakshmidhar Jena: May I know whether there is any Oriya member in that Railway Public Service Commission?

Shri Alagesan: No member from Orissa is sitting on the Commission.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Railway Public Service Commission give chance to all the applicants, or they scrutinise the applications of only a limited number of candidates?

Shri Alagesan: Applications are received, but only a limited number is selected for interview, and they are interviewed; and then, the selection is made.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether there is any move to amend the rules and regulations of the Railway Public Service Commission, in view of the difficulty that all candidates are not given a fair chance to be examined?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): We are examining that matter.

Shri Nambiar rose—

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

MISUSE OF TELEPRINTERS

*202. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the answer to starred question No. 44 asked on the 24th August, 1954 and state:

(a) the nature of the misuses committed by the Teleprinter service; and

(b) the action taken against the news agencies concerned?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Transmission of messages not permissible to be sent at Press Rates under the laws and bye laws, rules and regulations and not intended for publication in registered news papers.

(b) News Agencies have been warned that if proper use of the press circuits is not made, the circuits will be withdrawn.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: May I know what are the news agencies that have committed these misuses?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already indicated it in reply to part (a) of the question. That is what we have obtained as a result of monitoring.

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

*203. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the programme for import of food-grains for the current year as also for the next year?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Foodgrains are imported as required. For 1954 the imports are expected to be about one million tons on Government account. For the next year no decision has yet been taken for the quantity to be imported.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know what are the specific foodgrains that are being imported, and the countries