

WATER COOLERS AT STATIONS

*469. **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water-coolers at various stations on the North Eastern Railways frequently went out of order;

(b) if so, the names of the stations and the period for which they remained out of order; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to put them in working order?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) At some stations, water coolers went out of order for some periods.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House giving this information. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 74.]

(c) (i) Stand-by gas cylinders are being provided at Gorakhpur, Samastipur and Izatnagar for meeting emergencies; and

(ii) Refrigerator mechanics have been sanctioned for attending to the defects promptly.

INDIAN SHIPPING

*470. **Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the annual percentage of tea cargo from Calcutta to U.K. given to the Indian shipping companies since 1951;

(b) whether any representations have been received from Indian companies for increasing the share of cargo given to them; and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The information is as follows:—

1951	..	16.03
1952	..	14.21
1953	..	16.54
1954	..	18.97

(for 10 months)

(b) and (c). Yes. The matter was recently discussed with the interests concerned who have promised to submit to Government a scheme for allotting an increased percentage of tea cargo to Indian companies. The scheme is awaited.

PASSENGER AMENITIES

*472. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cloak-rooms constructed on the stations of the Northern Railway during 1952-53, 1953-54 and 1954-55 (till the 30th September);

(b) whether Government are aware that such arrangements do not exist on some of the big stations whereby the passengers are put to much inconvenience; and

(c) if so, the time by which all such stations will be provided with cloak-rooms?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) None, Sir.

(b) and (c). At stations where there are no cloak-rooms, facilities exist for acceptance of such luggage as passengers may like to deposit on recovery of the same charges as are leviable at stations with cloak-rooms.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

*473. **Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total mileage of National Highways maintained, constructed, metalled and re-metalled in Uttar Pradesh during the period from the 1st April to the 31st October, 1954;

(b) the share of the State Government; and

(c) the number of new roads constructed in U. P. during 1953-54 and 1954-55?