

(b) There is a proposal to extend covering over platforms No. 1 and 2 by 196 ft. and No. 3 by 280 ft.

(c) The work has been sanctioned and actual construction would be

(d) Rs. 1,13,000 approximately. taken in hand shortly.

SUPER CONSTELLATIONS FROM U.S.A.

*113. { Shri Sarangadhar Das;
Shri Amjad Ali;
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha;
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury;
Shri Ibrahim;

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of U.S.A. have withheld the export licence for the delivery of three Super-Constellations which were ordered in 1953;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action has been taken or is being taken to get an early delivery of these planes?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir.

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

COKE PLANT

*114. Shri V. Missir: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work in Lodna Coke Plant was stopped by the management on the 5th May, 1954;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of workers were illegally discharged; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khan-dubhai Desai): (a) to (d). The No. 2 battery at Lodna Coke Plant was closed on the 5th May, 1954 due to

damages caused to it during the two strikes in November—December 1953 and February—March 1954 rendering about 337 workers unemployed. The matter came up before the Central Government Industrial Tribunal Dhanbad, constituted under the Industrial Disputes Act 1947. The management of the Lodna group of Colliery and their workers entered into an agreement in September 1954, about the method of absorption of the affected workers and the Tribunal gave its Award in terms of the agreement.

LABOUR APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

*116. Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to abolish the Labour Appellate Tribunal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any decision has been taken thereon?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khan-dubhai Desai): (a) Yes.

(b) There is a large volume of public opinion in favour of abolition of the Labour Appellate Tribunal. The workers' organisations particularly have been demanding abolition because of the long time taken for the disposal of appeals and the expenditure and inconvenience caused to them by their participation in the appeals.

(c) No, Sir.

PURCHASE OF GLIDERS

*117. Shri B. D. Shastri: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any order for the purchase of gliders has been recently placed with a firm in the United Kingdom;

(b) if so, whether there is any major difference between the present gliders and those to be imported from the United Kingdom;

(c) what is the total value of the order; and

(d) whether these gliders are to be given to the existing flying clubs or Government propose to utilise them otherwise?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (d). The Civil Aviation Department has placed orders for the purchase from the United Kingdom of 4 gliders at a total cost of Rs. 60,000, for use at the Departmental Gliding Centre, Poona in imparting training in gliding. These gliders are similar to the ones already in use in India.

QUARTERS FOR RAILWAY STAFF

***118. Shri Damar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned any expenditure on the construction of quarters for employees on the Western Railway in 1954-55; and

(b) if so, the progress of this work so far?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The progress of this work was about 40 per cent. at the end of December, 1954.

EMPLOYMENT IN INDIAN MINES

***119. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether employment in Indian Mines in 1954 showed an increase or decrease as compared to the figures of employment in 1951 and if so, by how much; and

(b) the number of persons employed in 1954 in Coal, Manganese and Mica mines of India?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khan-dubhai Desai): (a) Statistics of employment for the year 1954 are not yet ready. It is, therefore, not possible to give precise information at this stage. The indications, however, are that the employment in mines in 1954 is not significantly below the 1951 level.

(b) The average daily employment in coal mines according to an estimate based on monthly returns is 332, 321. Figures for manganese and mica mines are not yet available.

CANTEENS IN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS

***120. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the number of canteens that have been provided in the workshops of the Northern Railway; and

(b) the names of the places where they have been provided?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 27].

TIBBIA COLLEGE, ALIGARH

***121. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Commission appointed by Government recently visited the Tibbia College, Aligarh; and

(b) if so, the purpose of their visit?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

TELESCOPIC RAILWAY FARES

***122. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 53 on the 16th November, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the examination of the proposal for introducing telescopic scales for passenger fares has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the nature of the decision arrived at?

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