

that rice deteriorates in storage, Government will consider the question of storing paddy in future instead of rice?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Some portions of these stocks are in paddy also. As far as possible, we try to get it in the form of paddy, but it all depends on our imports. Out of these 15 lakhs of tons, we have got 9 lakhs of tons of imported rice, and that is because we cannot import paddy from Burma, but we have to import it in the form of rice. Out of the grain that we procure in the country, some portion will be in the form of paddy, and some portion will be in the form of rice.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I know whether it is a fact that a substantial quantity of the rice which is being taken back by the Centre from the various States is deteriorated stuff, and the rest in the process of getting deteriorated? If so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to dispose of these stocks?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** We had convened a conference of all the officials of the States and the Centre recently, and we have asked them to mark out and grade the rice which has not got keeping quality, so that it can be disposed of immediately. At present, there is no rice with us, which is deteriorating. We are disposing of it as and when it gets deteriorated.

**Shri Kelappan:** May I know whether any stock has been disposed of, and if so, the loss incurred thereon?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Yes, in the district of the hon. Member, i.e. Calicut, we disposed of nearly 15,000 tons last month.

**Shri Kelappan:** Was any loss incurred?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Fifty per cent of the price we had paid for.

## RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

\*329. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Guards and Assistant Station Masters recruited on the Northern Railway during the year 1954; and

(b) the number of Scheduled Castes among them?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):**

(a) Guards	..	76
Asstt. Station Masters	..	421
(b) Guards	..	3
Asstt. Station Masters	...	25

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know whether there is any reservation kept for the Scheduled Castes, and if so, what is that proportion?

**Shri Alagesan:** The reservation percentage is 12½ per cent, but it is unfortunate that these percentages come only to 4 per cent, and 6 per cent.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know why the recruitment of the so-called Scheduled Castes was below par? May I also know whether it is not the practice with Government to lower the qualifications in the case of these Scheduled Castes, when appointments are to be made?

**Shri Alagesan:** The recruitment is made by the Railway Service Commission. In fact, for these categories, there is a sufficient number of applications from the Scheduled Caste candidates and persons numbering about four to five times the number of the actual vacancies set apart for the Scheduled Castes are called for interview. But many of them were not found up to the standard, and so they were not selected.

As to the question of relaxation of standards, I am sorry to say that it is not acceptable.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Is it not a fact that in the case of appointments made by the Union Public Service Commission and the State Public Service Commissions, relaxation of standard is permitted, and if so, may I know why it is not permitted by the Railway Service Commissions or Railway Selection Boards?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not know whether the State Service Commissions and the Union Public Service Commission permit relaxations—perhaps, the relaxation may relate to age-limit, but I do not think it relates to substantive standards.

#### MERGER OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

\*330. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 45 on the 16th November, 1954 and state:

(a) whether a decision has since been taken to treat 50 per cent. of the dearness allowance of the employees of the ex-Nizam's State Railway who have opted to retain pre-absorption terms and conditions of service, as dearness pay; and

(b) if so, whether the same will be enforced with retrospective effect?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know whether these employees were getting before integration all the benefits of the Central Pay Commission's recommendations, and if so, why there is this discrimination for this particular category?

**Shri Alagesan:** What the hon. Member says is true. We have brought this fact to the notice of the Finance Ministry, and they hope to finalise the matter soon.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** In view of the fact that this matter has been hanging fire for the last two years, may I know when a decision will be reached?

**Shri Alagesan:** That is exactly what I said earlier. The Finance Ministry hopes to finalise this matter very shortly.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** When will that hope be realised?

#### KURNOOL-KOTHAPATNAM RAIL LINK

\*331. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay a railway line between Kurnool and Kothapatnam;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of representations have been received to that effect; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take in this matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Representations have been received for linking Kurnool with Ongole via Nandyal which covers only a portion of the Kurnool-Kothapatnam project.

(c) The proposal has been noted for consideration, while selecting new lines for construction during the Second Five Year Plan Period.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know whether any survey has been conducted in this line?

**Shri Alagesan:** No.

#### IMPORT AND EXPORT OF FOODGRAINS

\*333. **Shri Chaudhri Muhammed Shafiq:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the quantities of foodgrains and sugar exported and imported during the year 1954;

(b) the names of the countries to which the exports were made;

(c) the names of the countries from which these commodities were imported; and