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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, 14th September, 1955

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Railway Earnings

*1719. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the earnings of the Northern Railway during the years 1952-53, 1953-54 and 1954-55; and

(b) the amount spent on the restoration of the old lines and on the construction of new lines on the Northern Railway during the above period?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 31].

Catering

*1720. Shri Dabhi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the arrangements made so far for the sale to passengers of food packets containing *puris*, vegetables etc. of good standard quality at a moderate price as suggested by him in his last Budget speech?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Cheap food packets are already being sold on the South-Eastern, Eastern, Central and Southern Railways, details of which are given in the attached statement. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 32]. The sale of such packets is proposed to be extended shortly to other stations and Railways as well.

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Displaced T. B. Patients

*1721. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to give relief to the displaced T. B. patients from West Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the total number of T. B. patients who were given relief?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes; Government have reserved 393 beds in various T. B. Hospitals for indigent T. B. patients displaced from West Pakistan and also placed funds at the disposal of State Governments concerned for granting financial assistance to such patients under certain conditions.

(b) Information regarding the total number of displaced T. B. patients who were given relief by the various State Governments is not available.

Subsidy to Shipping

*1722. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Shipping Industry is not receiving any subsidy from Government?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The Indian shipping industry is not at present receiving any direct subsidy from Government. Indirectly, however, the Indian Shipping Companies have benefited from the Government loan schemes under which a concessional rate of interest is charged by Government.

Exploratory Tube-wells

*1723. Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an officer was deputed to U.S.A. for procuring equipments for the construction of exploratory tube-wells; and

(b) if so, whether he has submitted any report?