

(b) the amount of grant sanctioned;

(c) the manner in which it has been utilized so far;

(d) whether any Co-operative Bank has been debarred from getting Government assistance; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix XII, annexure No. 18].

Price Support Scheme for Rice

*2465. { **Shri Sanganna:**
Shri Radha Ramani:
Shri Viswanatha Reddy:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments have started to purchase rice and paddy under the Price Support Scheme;

(b) if so, the names of those States;

(c) the extent to which the purchases will be made by them; and

(d) how the States will be affected in case the price of rice shoots up due to drought conditions?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No, Sir, not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is difficult to indicate the extent to which purchases will be made, as under the Price Support Scheme, purchases will be made only when the price of coarse rice falls below Rs. 11/- per maund.

(d) If the price in any State tends to rise steeply owing to drought or other conditions, no purchases under the Price Support Scheme will be made in that State. On the other hand, Government will release rice from its own stocks in the Central Reserve in order to bring down prices.

Nutritional Value of Rice

*2466. **Shri Deogun:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent study of the nutritional value of rice has shown that the rice diet is responsible for high incidence of blindness; and

(b) if so, whether Government will publish the findings of the research work done, in all the regional languages for the benefit of the masses?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) There has been no recent study on the nutritional value of rice in relation to blindness.

(b) Does not arise.

Grand Trunk Express

*2467. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to the General Discussion on Railway Budget for 1955-56 on the 4th March, 1955 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken for converting the Grand Trunk Express into a mail train with increased speed;

(b) if so, from what date it will be given effect to; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XII, annexure No. 19].

Train Accident

*2468. { **Shri Janardhan Reddy:**
Shri M. L. Agrawal:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kasganj-Achnera Up Goods Train bound for Achnera met with a serious accident between Ratikanagla and Hathras Junction on the North Eastern Railway on the 10th September, 1955; and

(b) if so, the causes of the accident?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) At about 10-10 hours on 10-9-1955 while No. 1 Up Goods train was running between Rati-Ka-Nagla and Hathras stations on the Kasganj-Achnera Section of the North Eastern Railway, 5 wagons and a brake van on the train derailed and capsized and 2 wagons derailed.

(b) The derailment was caused by the breakage of sole bar flange of a wagon due to flaw in the sole bar.

Urban Health Unit

*2469. **Shri K. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Urban Health Unit jointly sponsored by the Government of India, the Government of West Bengal

UNICEF and the Corporation of Calcutta is proposed to be set up in Calcutta shortly; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme including the total estimated expenditure and the contributions made by each of the said parties?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix XII, annexure No. 20].

Postal Life Insurance Directorate, Calcutta

*2470. **Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that discharge notices have been served to some employees of the office of the Director, Postal Life Insurance, Calcutta;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to absorb them?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) They have failed in the confirmation examination even in the additional chances that were given as a grace.

(c) Under the rules in force even before they came under the control of the P. & T. from the audit, if they do not pass the confirmation examination they are liable to be discharged.

Guntakal-Bangalore Link

*2471. **Shri Lakshmayya:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from the public for the conversion of the Guntakal-Bangalore metre gauge line into a broad gauge line; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is not considered justified as it would defeat the very object of joining the Northern and Southern metre gauge systems by the construction of the railway line between Khandwa and Hingoli.

Strike Notice by C.T.O. Employees

*2472 { **Shri Kamath :**
Shri Naval Prabhakar :

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Tractor Organisation Employees' Union has served a notice to the effect that they will go on strike on the 20th September, 1955 ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P.S. Deshmukh) : (a) There was such a notice which has since been withdrawn.

(b) The main reason for the strike was the proposal to effect retrenchment on the basis of categorisation of the staff.

(c) It has been decided that retrenchment will not be made on the basis of categorisation but on the basis of 'last come, first out'.

Appointments in Delhi Circle

*2473. **Shri Thanu Pillai :** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the applicants from Madras for Service in the Posts and Telegraphs Department are rejected by the Delhi circle on the ground that they have not studied geography; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that geography is taught by the schools in Madras as 'Social Studies' and such qualification is recognised by the Madras Circle ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, in a few cases as the candidates did not mention that 'Social Studies' includes Geography.

(b) Yes. Orders have been issued to the Delhi and other Circles to accept such applications.

Frauds

1301. **Shri Ibrahim:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) the number of prosecutions launched in each circle against postal employees for the misappropriation or defalcation of public money in the years 1953-54 and 1954-55 ; and

(b) the number of cases amongst them which ended in conviction ?