

Dibrugarh Town, Alipore Duar and Bongaigon, Tambaram, Trichinopoly, Golden Rock, Ponnmalai Patti, Villupuram, Podanur, Erode, Coonoor, Negapatam, Madura, Jalarpet, Hubli, Mysore, Dajar, Buisar, Ajmer (2), Abu Road, Bandikui (2), Phulera (2), Rewari, Mhow, Ratlam, Neemuch, Dohad, Gangpur, Chittaranjan (6).

Note.—Each branch of a society has been counted as a separate society.

(b) The total membership of these societies is 39,630 and the total subscribed capital is Rs. 7,45,383.

(c) The total turnover of business done by these societies during 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 are Rs. 46,58,697, Rs. 48,82,957 and Rs. 54,74,465 respectively. The last figure does not include information regarding 3 societies which is not yet available.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

486. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges which are proposed to be expanded in the year 1952-53; and

(b) what would be the net increase in lines as a result of this expansion programme?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 57 existing exchanges to be expanded and 62 new exchanges to be opened.

(b) 12,880 lines due to expansion of existing exchanges and 7,120 lines due to opening of new exchanges.

FOOD CONTROLS

487. Shri Bansal: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the cost incurred by the Central Government in the administration of food controls; and

(b) the estimated saving by the Centre as a result of the modification of the food control policy?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

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

(a) the total length of National Highways proposed to be constructed during the next five years in Uttar Pradesh and specially in Banaras and Gorakhpur Divisions; and

(b) the estimated cost per mile, and what would be the minimum cost per mile if bricks-gitti instead of stone pieces are given?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Three miles of entirely new construction in the Basti District of Gorakhpur Division.

About 310 miles are proposed to be improved or upgraded, of which 21 miles will be in Banaras Division and 16 miles in Gorakhpur Division.

(b) Rs. 64,000 per mile for the new construction mentioned above. These estimates are for the use of kankar metal. The difference in the cost of stone and brick metal varies with each locality depending in particular, on the distance from which the materials have to be brought.

COTTON CULTIVATION

489. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage under cotton cultivation in Madras State during 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(b) the total quantity of cotton produced during the period; and

(c) the variety of cotton produced?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). Final estimate for 1951-52 has not yet been issued but a statement containing the available information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 46.]

KUTCH STATE EMPLOYEES

490. Shri Bhawanji: Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who retired or who have been made to retire on account of superannuation or inefficiency since the Administration of Kutch was taken over by the Centre;

(b) the number of persons who so retired and who are receiving pensions or who have been paid off the amounts of their gratuities;

(c) the number of persons to whom such pensions or the amounts of their gratuities have still not been paid since the time they have retired or have been made to retire;

(d) the reasons for the delay in not giving them their due pensions or the amount of their gratuities; and

(e) the basis on which such pensions or gratuities are given?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The information asked for is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

RAILWAY PROJECTS

491. Shri Madiah Gowda: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state at what stage the following Railway Projects are:—

- (1) Bangalore-Hosur Railway line,
- (2) Kadir-Chikkamagalur Railway line,
- (3) Thalaguppa-Jog Railway line,
- (4) Mysore-Mercara Railway line,
- (5) Hassan-Mangalore Railway line, and
- (6) Electrification of Bangalore-Mysore Railway?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The position is as indicated below:

1. *Bangalore-Hosur Railway Line.*—The project was considered by the Central Board of Transport in July 1951 and it was decided that the question of ordering Traffic and Engineering surveys for the link should be postponed.

2. *Kadir-Chikkamagalur Railway Line.*—In view of the present financial and economic condition of the country, consideration of the proposal has been kept pending for the present.

3. *Thalaguppa-Jog Railway Line.*—There is no scheme to extend the railway line from Thalaguppa to Jog.

4. *Mysore-Mercara Railway Line.*—No such proposal has been under consideration.

5. *Hassan-Mangalore Railway Line.*—The project was considered by the Central Board of Transport in January 1950 and it was decided that it should be held over for the present.

6. *Electrification of Bangalore-Mysore Railway.* No such scheme has so far been referred to the Railway Board for consideration.

POST OFFICE CASH CERTIFICATES

492. Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any displaced persons from West Pakistan got their claims registered in the Punjab and Delhi Post Offices in respect of Post Office Cash Certificates purchased in Pakistan but subsequently lost during disturbances;

(b) if so, what is the value of such claims;

(c) whether these claims have been verified; and

(d) whether any declarations in lieu of lost certificates have been issued?

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

(i) Yes.

(ii) No. of claims registered,

Delhi Circle	481
Punjab Circle	4,128
Total	4,609

(b) Value of these claims Rs. 17,27,303.

(c) Out of the 4,609 claims, 566 have been verified.

(d) Yes. Declarations in lieu of the above mentioned lost cash certificates which have been verified, have been issued.

MOVEMENT OF FOODGRAINS

493. Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what was the total amount of demurrage charges paid to Railway on account of the movement of foodgrains during 1951-52?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): Government of India have not paid any demurrage charges to Railways on account of movement of foodgrains during 1951-52. Information regarding such charges, if any, paid by State Governments is not available.

FOODGRAINS

494. Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what was the quantity of foodgrains written off during 1951-52; and

(b) whether the quantity written off was all spoilt and unfit for human consumption?