

organisation scheme was to take over private-owned Railway Companies by the Government;

(b) when did the lease of the Shahadara-Saharanpur Light Railway expire last;

(c) has the lease been renewed; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) No. The taking over of privately-owned Railways is regulated by contracts with the parties concerned.

(b) to (d). The last option to Government to take over the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway occurred on 18-4-48 but was not exercised on financial grounds. There is no question of renewing the lease as according to the terms of the existing contract the option, if not exercised, is automatically postponed and recurs after every 7 years.

RAILWAY LINK FROM GARO HILLS TO ASSAM RAILWAY SYSTEM

*2154. **Jonab Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1741 (c) asked on the 14th July, 1952 and state:

(a) whether any preliminary survey was made for the railway line from the main Railway System of Assam to the projected coal fields of Garo Hills and if so, from which place to which place;

(b) what is the estimated cost of the proposed Railway;

(c) whether the cost of constructing a bridge over Brahmaputra between Jogighopa and Pomeharatna was also estimated; if so, what was the total estimate; and

(d) when were these estimates made?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Preliminary engineering survey was made for a Railway line from Pandu to Darangiri in the Garo Hills via Amjanga.

(b) The line was estimated to cost Rs. 529.91 lakhs.

(c) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply given by me to his question No. 1111 on 23rd June 1952, when he was informed that no estimate for the construction of the bridge was prepared.

(d) The estimate for the rail connection between Pandu and Darangiri was prepared in 1950.

SCHEDULED AND BACKWARD CLASSES

*2155. **Shri Elayaperumal:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the Government of India have appointed any Commission to investigate the conditions of Scheduled Classes and Backward classes?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The matter is under consideration and a decision will be taken shortly.

MATCH WOOD AND SEMAL TREES

538. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government put into operation the scheme for the plantation of Match wood and semal trees;

(b) which State possess the most suitable soil for these plantations;

(c) what share the Central Government is contributing to the State Governments for its implementation; and

(d) what sums have been allotted to different States under this scheme?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) In every State there are suitable localities in reserve forests for match-wood species.

(c) Central Government have agreed to contribute 50 per cent. of the total expenditure incurred by each State.

(d) For the year 1952-53 we have allocated the following sums to different States:

	Rs.
(1) Uttar Pradesh	78,000
(2) Assam	50,000
(3) Bombay	60,000
(4) Travancore-Cochin	40,000
(5) Madras	7,000
TOTAL	2,35,000

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS (FREIGHT)

539. **Shri Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of food-grains imported into India in the year 1951 from different countries;

(b) the number of steamers which brought these foodgrains from different foreign ports;

(c) the quantity of foodgrains discharged at the different ports in India; and

(d) the amount of freight paid by the Government of India on the import of foodgrains in 1951, in dollars, sterling and rupees and the total amount so paid?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 4.7 million tons of foodgrains costing approximately 216 crores of rupees were imported during 1951. Grain-wise particulars of quantity and value of foodgrains are published in the January, 1952 edition of the Bulletin on food statistics published by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. It is not in public interest to disclose at present the country-wise break-up of the value of the foodgrains imported from each country.

(b) 662 steamers.

(c) The quantity of foodgrains discharged at different Indian ports during 1951 is as follows:—

Name of port	Quantity in 000 tons
Bombay ..	1627.7
Calcutta	1514.5
Madras ..	477.5
Cochin ..	566.3
Visakhapatnam..	205.1
Bhavnagar	15.1
Navlakhi	157.1
Tuticorin	85.5
Marmugoa	25.7
Calicut	14.8
Okha	28.6
Kakinada	6.4
TOTAL	4724.3

(d) Break-up in terms of rupees, sterling and dollars is not readily available and the information is being compiled. A Statement will be placed on the Table of the House shortly, giving the required information.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN ASSAM

540. Shri J. N. Hazarika: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the mileage of the portion of National Highways from Makum to

Ledo in Assam; and the amount of money spent in the years of 1950-51 1951-52 for its improvement; and

(b) what amount will be spent in 1952-53 for its surface dressing etc. and when the portion will be completed?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) 27 miles; Rs. 44,050 during 1950-51 and Rs. 84,000 during 1951-52.

(b) An amount of Rs. 2.7 lakhs for surface dressing etc. has been tentatively earmarked for 1952-53. It is expected that the work will be completed by the year 1954.

MIGRATION TO INDIA FROM PAKISTAN

541. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons who having migrated to the territory of India from the territory now included in Pakistan be deemed to be citizens of India at the commencement of the Constitution as envisaged in article 6(b) (i) of the Constitution;

(b) the number of such persons who having migrated to the territory of India from Pakistan on the nineteenth day of July, 1948, have been registered as citizens of India as envisaged in article 6(a) (ii) of the Constitution;

(c) the number of persons who having migrated to Pakistan have returned to the territory of India under permit for settlement or permanent return have been registered as citizens as envisaged in Article 7 of the Constitution; and

(d) the number of persons who have registered themselves as citizens of India under article 8 of the Constitution up to date giving different figures for different countries?

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

EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL POST OFFICES

542. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main difficulties experienced in the working of the extra Departmental Post Offices that have been brought to the notice of the Department by the Post-Masters of these post offices;

(b) whether it is a fact that in a very large number of such post offices,