

imported during 1951 under Barter Agreements.

Kind	Quantity '000 tons
Wheat	612
Rice	359

It will not be in the public interest to disclose the value of these commodities just at present.

(b) Hessian, Jute, Shellac, Tobacco, Tea and Gunnies.

(c) Yes. A wheat for rice barter deal has been entered into with Pakistan. The Government of India will supply 39,700 tons of wheat in exchange for 37,700 tons of rice to be supplied by Pakistan.

GANGA BRIDGE

*1293. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Visvesvaraya Committee which set up to report about the location of a rail road bridge on the river Ganga has submitted its report;

(b) what are the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether the report has been considered by Government;

(d) whether the recommendations have been accepted;

(e) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to give effect to the recommendations; and

(f) what will be the estimated expenditure involved in giving effect to the recommendations?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) A Press Communique on the recommendations made by Dr. M. Visvesvaraya was issued on 11th June and was published in all the leading Newspapers on 12th June, 1952. A copy of the Communique is being laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 39].

(c) The Report is under consideration.

(d) and (e). Do not arise at present.

(f) According to the estimate prepared in 1948 a combined rail-road bridge at Mokameh Ghat was estimated to cost Rs. 12.3 crores. The estimate will need revision according to current prices and in the light of any modifications, that may be made in the Design.

MADHUPUR AND-GIRDH RAILWAY STATION

275. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to extend the Railway line from Girdih and to connect it with the Grand Chord Line at Kodarma?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The reply is in the negative.

NEW RAILWAY LINES IN CHHOTA NAGPUR

276. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many miles of new Railway lines are proposed to be laid in Chhota Nagpur in Bihar during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): None during 1952-53. The programme of new line constructions for 1953-54 has not yet been prepared.

KHANDWA-HINGOLI RAILWAY LINE

277. **Shri G. B. Khedkar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was made to construct a new Railway Line from Khandwa to Hingoli via Akot-Akola-Basim; and

(b) if so, when the actual work will begin?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) The project is at present being re-examined by the Western Railway. It is not possible at this stage to state when actually construction work will begin.

BILASPUR-NAGPUR RAILWAY SECTION

278. **Shri Kirodikar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of wagons in Bilaspur-Nagpur section of Eastern Railway;

(b) what procedure has been adopted in the supply of wagons to the merchants;

(c) whether there was any complaint from the merchants' Association of Rajnandgaon, District Drug, Madhya Pradesh State, regarding the supply and distribution of wagons;

(d) if so, what action has been taken; and

(e) what quantity of foodgrains have been lying at present in godowns in Rajnandgaon owing to non-supply of wagons?