

(d) Work has commenced only recently and no progress has been reported so far.

(e) Does not arise.

MINIMUM WAGES ACT

493. **Shri Raghuramaiah:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minimum Wages Act has been brought into force in Madras State; and

(b) if not, whether the Madras Government have given any reasons for the non-enforcement?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Minimum rates of wages have been fixed in the Madras State in respect of all employments included in Part I of the Schedule appended to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. As regards employment in agriculture which is included in Part II of the Schedule minimum rates have not yet been fixed and the matter is under the consideration of the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

डाकघर

४९४. **श्री विभूति मिश्र :** संवरण मंत्री

यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सर गार २००० और उस से अधिक संयुक्त जनसंख्या वाले गांवों के मुद्रों की सेवा के लिये डाकघर खोलने का विचार कर रही है, और यदि हां तो किस तिथि से ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Yes, subject to availability of Funds, but village with population of 2,000 and over are given first priority. As various combinations of villages are possible and its funds are limited, no such date can, for obvious reasons, be fixed.

METRE GAUGE SYSTEMS

495. **Shri P. Subba Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to connect the Metre gauge systems of North and South India between Khandwa and Hingoli to facilitate movement of wagons from North to South and vice versa?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The reply is in affirmative.

TRAIN BETWEEN CALCUTTA AND MADRAS

496. **Shri P. Subba Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to run through trains between Calcutta and Puri and Madras via Simbachelom North and Anakapalli avoiding Waltair?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): There is no such proposal.

LITAN-UKHRUL ROAD

497. **Shri Rishang Kelshing:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent for the construction of the road between Litan and Ukhrul prior to the integration of the State to the Central Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have abandoned the idea of completing the said road; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Rs. 70,500.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) Does not arise.

MICA MINES

498. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether there are any mica mines in Madhya Pradesh and if so, what is their total number and what was their total output during 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(b) What is the total approximate number of labourers employed in mica mines in Madhya Pradesh?

(c) What was the total amount of money provided for welfare work in these mines by the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund during 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(d) What is the composition of the Advisory Committee of the Fund for Madhya Pradesh?

(e) When was this Committee constituted last time?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) There is only one mica mine working in Madhya Pradesh. About 12 cwts. of dressed mica was produced from this mine during the year 1950. There was no production during the year 1951.

(b) During the Calendar years 1950 and 1951, five men and one man respectively, were employed on an average daily in the mine.

(c) A sum of Rs. 14,000 was set apart during the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 for welfare work for mica miners in this State.

(d) and (e), No Advisory Committee has so far been constituted.

SINGARENI COLLIERIES (WAGONS)

499. **Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of wagons supplied to Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothragudium at Bhadrachallam daily;

(b) whether the demand of the Company is fully met; and

(c) if not, what arrangements are being made to supply adequate number of wagons?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The daily average number of wagons supplied to Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothragudium at Bhadrachallam Road is given below:—

	Supply of wagons (Daily average)
April, 1952	123
May, 1952	130
June, 1952	116
July, 1952	120
August, 1952	123
September, 1952	114
October, 1952	107
November, 1952	109
(upto 25th)	

(b) Yes. Indents from the collieries were met in full and there have been no complaints of short supply of wagons.

(c) Does not arise.

SELECTION FOR SUBORDINATE SERVICES

500. **Shri P. Subba Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many centres have been fixed for the Services Commission for selecting candidates for subordinate services in Railways?

(b) Is there any proposal to have a separate Selection Committee for each Railway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) There are no fixed centres for interviews held by the Railway Service Commissions. The centres are determined by the Service Commission concerned with reference to the number of candidates from the adjoining areas applying for a particular post or category of post. Normally interviews are held at the Headquarters of the various Railways and other important centres like Gauhati, Lucknow, Agra, Nagpur, Trichinopoly, etc.

(b) No.

EASTERN RAILWAY

501. **Shri P. Subba Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total mileage of the Eastern Railway lying within the borders of Orissa?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The hon. Member is referred to part (a) (ii) of the answer given to Shri U. C. Patnaik's question No. 58 on the 20th May, 1952.

RECRUITMENT IN INDIAN RAILWAYS

502. **Shri P. Subba Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many applicants for service in Indian Railways were there in 1951 and how many were called for interview and how many were finally selected?

(b) What amount was received as fee for applications for appointments and how much expense was incurred by Government?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

AGRICULTURAL PUBLICITY

503. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what are the main decisions arrived at the Lucknow Conference, recently held for the spread of agricultural information?

(b) What will be the annual expenditure for the scheme approved by the Conference?

(c) When the scheme will be given effect to?