

various States under G.M.F. Campaign during 1951-52 have been achieved, since complete reports of additional production achieved during the year have not yet been received.

PASSENGER AMENITIES COMMITTEES

56. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Passenger Amenities Committees have been formed on all the Indian Railways and whether they have begun to function?

(b) What are the important recommendations made by them for the year 1952-53?

(c) Has this Committee on N. E. Railway met and given their suggestions to the General Manager?

(d) If so, what are they and what steps have so far been taken to implement them?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes, except on the Northern Railway where also such a committee is being formed.

(b) The Passenger Amenities Committee as such were formed only about the end of the last financial year and they, therefore, made recommendations only in respect of Passenger Amenities Works for 1953-54. A brief statement indicating the important recommendations of the Passenger Amenities Committees for 1953-54 is attached. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 50].

(c) Yes.

(d) A detailed statement giving the information requested is attached. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 50].

GANGA-BRAHMAPUTRA TRANSPORT BOARD

57. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what are the important items of programme formulated by the Ganga-Brahmaputra Transport Board?

(b) Has any of these items been taken up for execution?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The main items in the programme of work for 1952-53 adopted by the Ganga-Brahmaputra Water Transport Board are—

- (1) the formulation of a pilot demonstration project for testing the feasibility of using shallow draft tugs for tow-

ing barges and boats on shallow stretches of the river Ganga, and

- (2) investigation of the navigation problems on the Brahmaputra arising from the recent floods.

(b) (1) Mr. J. J. Surie, Inland Navigation Expert, who has been deputed by the U.N.T.A.A. to prepare the details of the pilot demonstration project, arrived in India on the 23rd October 1952 and is conducting the necessary preliminary investigations.

- (2) An expert of the Central Water and Power Commission visited the flooded areas in Assam in July/August 1952 and has submitted a report. His recommendations relate to the collection of information such as discharge observations at fixed points and the need for measures like snag clearance, bandalling, better lighting arrangements and an additional ghat at Dibrugarh. These are under consideration.

MEETING OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIANS

58. **Shri Mohana Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether a meeting is to take place or has already taken place of American agricultural technicians in India in connection with the Community Project Scheme?

(b) What was the necessity for such a meeting?

(c) Who all attended that meeting and how long had each of them stayed in India?

(d) What work had each of them done during that period?

(e) What had been their experiences of the local conditions in India?

(f) Who took part in that meeting on behalf of the Government of India?

(g) Were Indian agricultural technicians also invited to give their opinions?

(h) Do Government propose to place on the Table of the House a copy of the report of that meeting and its decisions?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) A meeting of American Agricultural Technicians in India was held at Agra on 1st to 5th September, 1952.

(b) The meeting was held in order to enable these extension workers to discuss the programme contemplated and to determine ways and means whereby their work can be improved.

(c) Thirty-seven American Agricultural Technicians attended the meeting. A statement giving their names, approximate date of arrival in India and the period of their assignment is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 51].

(d) Their work is to render technical advice in agricultural matters generally and extension work in particular.

(e) Information about their experiences of the local conditions in India is not yet available.

(f) Shri Vishnu Sahay, Secretary, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Dr. B. N. Uppal, Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India, Shri S. K. Dey, Administrator, Community Projects Administration and Shri A. D. Bohra, Deputy Director, C.P.A. attended the meeting on behalf of the Government of India.

(g) Yes.

(h) A copy of the minutes of the meeting is available in the Library of the House.

INDIAN SHIPPING (EARNINGS)

59. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the total receipts on freight and passenger earnings of Indian shipping during 1951 and the corresponding figures earned by foreign shipping from India for the same period?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the replies given to the Starred Question No. 1277 asked by Shri Morarka on 27th June 1952 and to part (a) of the Starred Question No. 1992 asked by Shri Bansal on 22nd July, 1952.

CATCH OF FISH

60. Shri V. P. Nayar: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the estimated annual catch of marine, estuarine and freshwater fish in India at present?

(b) What is the increase in the quantity since 1947?

(c) What is the present per capita annual consumption of fish in India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The production of fish for 1951 was as follows:—

Sea fish including estuarine	5,25,000 tons
Freshwater fish (marketable surplus)	2,15,000 tons
	<hr/> 5,25,000 tons

(b) 2,32,500 tons.

(c) 3.98 lbs.

TICKETLESS TRAVELLING

61. Prof. Agarwal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the recent steps taken by the Ministry to check effectively ticketless travelling on Indian Railways and the result achieved?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): In addition to the usual measures, such as, checking of tickets in trains and at stations, the recent steps taken to prevent ticketless travelling on Railways include the following:—

(1) The appointment of extra ticket checking staff.

(2) The special scheme of ticket checking with magisterial and police assistance in force in the Uttar Pradesh for some time, has since been introduced also in Bihar.

(3) Intensification of surprise and concentrated checks on specific sections badly affected.

(4) Special drives to get suburban passengers into the habit of showing their season tickets instead of trying to rush through gates unchecked.

(5) The introduction of self-printing and ticket issuing machines in the suburban areas. As tickets are obtained more quickly, passengers are less tempted to travel without tickets.

The figures of ticketless travellers detected during the first six months of 1952-53 as compared with those of the corresponding period of 1951-52 indicate a decrease from about 39 lakhs to less than 35 lakhs.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

62. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) when the Telephone Exchanges were opened at Hijli, Kharagpur and Midnapur in West Bengal;

(b) how subscribers were initially charged and what are the recurring charges;