

(c) Do Government propose to improve the Purnea-Darjeeling road in the near future?

(d) What are the details of the works to be carried and their estimated cost?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Some improvement works have already been carried out and others are now in progress, or under investigation for preparation of estimates. The Government of India is responsible for the National Highway portion of this road only.

(d) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 3.]

CONSTRUCTION OF BARRAGE NEAR DALAI

667. Shri Dasaratha Deb: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a representation of local peasants and displaced persons was made to the Government of Tripura and the Government of India suggesting the construction of a barrage (bund) near Dalai canal of Sonamura Division?

(b) Is it a fact that about 500 acres of land can be brought under cultivation if the proposed barrage is made?

(c) Do Government propose to give aid to such public work?

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

(b) Approximately 320 acres can be brought under cultivation.

(c) No. The expert technical advice is against the construction of the proposed bunch, as it will adversely affect the flow of the river Gumti.

CENTRAL RAILWAY WORKSHOP, GWALIOR

668. Shri Suriya Prasad: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the amount that was budgeted by the Central Government for the installation, maintenance and function of the new machines at the Central Railway Workshop in Gwalior;

(b) the total number of new recruits employed in the workshop as fitters etc., and the strength in each category;

(c) on what lines, basis or guiding factor the recruitment has been made; and

(d) what per cent of the vacancies was exclusively meant for scheduled castes and what percentage for other backward class representatives?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a)

There is no Central Railway Workshop at Gwalior.

The reply to other parts of the question does not arise.

JUTE WORKERS (RETRENCHMENT)

669. Shri Tusbar Chatterjee: (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government are aware that as a result of rationalisation policy pursued by the Indian Jute Mills Association large-scale retrenchment is going on in every jute mill of West Bengal?

(b) If so, have Government in contemplation any scheme for providing either alternative work or unemployment dole to those who are retrenched?

(c) What is the total number of jute workers (including permanent and temporary) retrenched during last six months?

(d) What is the number that got involuntary unemployment dole from the Jute Mill-owners?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): The information is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

FUEL AND LUBRICATING OILS

670. Shri Viswanatha Reddy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer to starred question No. 1012 asked on the 18th June, 1952 regarding fuel and lubricating oils and state whether any reply has been received from the Government of Madras, and if so, what decision, if any, has been taken?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwal): Yes. The Government of Madras are of the view that it is not necessary to subsidise fuel oil required by the agriculturists in areas affected by adverse seasonal conditions during the current year, as the benefit of such a subsidy will be available only to a few well-to-do ryots who have the means to hire or buy

pumpa and command other irrigation facilities.

POST OFFICE IN PERINAD

671. { Shri N. Sreekanth Nair:
Shri Punnoose:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any idea to change the Post Office from the present site in Perinad (near Qullon), Travancore-Cochin;

(b) if so, why; and

(c) whether the Department has acquired a site for putting up the Post Office Building and if so, why is it that no building has been put up?

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

(b) Due to insufficiency of accommodation available in the present building.

(c) A site belonging to the ex-archal department has been transferred to the Department. No construction has been taken up because in the building programme, priority has been given to the rehabilitation of existing buildings in Travancore-Cochin over new construction.

VISAKHAPATNAM HARBOUR (ACCIDENT)

672. { Shri N. Sreekanth Nair:
Shri Punnoose:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an accident in Visakhapatnam Harbour recently resulting in the death of a passenger in S.S. "Rajula";

(b) if so, what were the reasons for the same; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to compensate the dependents of the deceased?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesa): (a) and (b). No. The S. S. "Rajula" does not visit the Visakhapatnam Port. At the port of Nagapatnam, however, a fatal accident took place on the 26th October, 1952, resulting in the death of an unberthed passenger on board this ship while she was loading cargo. It is reported that the passenger bound from Madras to Singapore, disregarding the hatch-coaming guards put his head under the guard chain of

No. 1 hatch to look down the hatch just as a sling of cargo was being lowered and his head was trapped between the hatch-coaming and the sling of cargo. As a result, he sustained serious injuries on the head as a result of which he subsequently died although medical assistance was immediately rendered by the ship's Surgeon.

(c) As the S. S. "Rajula" is not owned or chartered by the Government of India, the question of their paying any compensation to the dependents of the deceased does not arise.

FAMILY PLANNING

673. Dr. Amin: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent so far by the Government of India on the experiments carried out for the rhythmic method of family planning; and

(b) the date on which these experiments were started?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Rs. 41,543/1/- upto the end of October, 1952.

(b) The undermentioned Family Planning Centres were started on the dates shown against them:—

(i) Lodi Colony Centre, New Delhi, July, 1952.

(ii) Lady Hardinge Medical College Centre, New Delhi, July, 1952.

(iii) Romanagaram Centre (near Bangalore), May, 1952.

HEALTH MINISTER'S CHARITY FUND

674. Dr. Amin: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Health Minister's name is given in the advertisement of Health Seals Campaign;

(b) the amount of funds so far collected and credited to the Health Minister's Charity Fund; and

(c) the actual amount spent so far on each item separately?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) The Appeal is sponsored by the Health Minister.