

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what were the reasons for not arranging the special trains?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Special trains were run in connection with the last *Shivratri Jatra* for Purli-Vajinath and Ondha Nagnath, but none in connection with the *Jatra* for Ellora.

(b) 13 Specials for Purli-Vajinath from 23rd to 27th February 1952, both days inclusive, and one special each on 24th and 25th February, 1952, for Ondha Nagnath.

(c) As only 754 pilgrims visited Ellora, no Special train was arranged and the traffic was cleared by ordinary trains, the rakes of which were strengthened.

ROLLING STOCK (SHORTAGE)

823. Shri Neswi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that on account of shortage of wagons and engines the transport situation in the Hubli District is unsatisfactory;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to supply them;

(c) whether it is a fact that some rolling stock was to be received before April, 1952; and

(d) if not received, when they are expected to be received and actually put into commission on the Hubli District?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) There were heavy demands pending of the Hubli District during 1951 and first half of 1952 and due to shortage of wagons and restricted capacity via tranship points, such as Ghorouri, it was not possible to meet these demands fully.

(b) As more stock was received, loading of block trains was arranged as far as possible with satisfactory results.

(c) 304 new metre gauge wagons were delivered to the Southern Railway from April 1951 to March 1952, but the number out of these supplied to the Hubli District in particular is not readily available. 1981 more wagons are expected to be put into service on the Southern Railway during the period April 1952 to March 1953. During the period from 22-7-52 to 15-11-52, a total of 303 new wagons were received and put on for traffic for the whole Mysore Region, including Hubli District.

(d) Does not arise.

BOOKING OF GOODS FROM SOUTHERN RAILWAY

824. Shri Neswi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Western Railway has stopped booking of all traffic from Southern Railway to Ujjain from March, 1952;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same Railway has given a daily quota of six wagons for the whole Southern Railway;

(c) whether it is a fact that the volume of traffic offering to and across that Railway is larger; and

(d) if so, what measures are being taken to remove these restrictions?

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

(a) Goods traffic, except Government sponsored foodgrains and coal, was restricted to Ujjain from 8-2-52 to 26-3-52 after which there has been no restriction on its movement so far.

(b) No quota has been prescribed for movement of traffic for booking to and via Ujjain as booking is free.

(c) The amount of traffic offering from the Southern Railway to stations on the Western Railway via Ujjain is not much as will be clear from the fact that in September 1952 the outstanding registration for booking to stations reached via Ujjain were only two wagons. Booking of goods traffic to stations reached via Ujjain has been made free since the beginning of November 1952.

(d) In view of (c), the question does not arise.

WAITING ROOMS

825. Shri Raghuramaiah: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the insufficient and congested condition of the Waiting Rooms at Tenali, Vijayawada and Masulipatam Railway Stations on the Southern Railway;

(b) whether Government are aware of the necessity of having covered platforms at those Stations; and

(c) if so, what improvements Government propose to make at those stations and when?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Government are aware of insufficient accommodation in the waiting rooms at Vijayawada and at Tenali stations, but not at Masulipatam.

(b) Yes, at Vijayawada and Tenali.

(c) It is proposed to remodel Vijayawada and Tenali stations and to provide the following facilities there:—**Vijayawada:** A new booking office, third class waiting halls at either end of the overbridge and covered accommodation for island and main platforms. **Tenali:** An extensive third class waiting hall outside the booking office and a roofing over the platform.

The works at Vijayawada are expected to be taken up in 1953-54.

CULTIVABLE LAND

826. Shri Mohanlal Saksena: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the approximate total acreage of cultivable land that is left un-cultivated in village areas each year?

(b) What will be the approximate yield of food crops from the land so left?

(c) What steps if any, have so far been taken to see that the land so left is cultivated?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) About 1½ million acres in 1949-50.

(b) Approximately 4 million tons.

(c) The steps taken so far to bring culturable lands under cultivation include:

- (i) Reclamation of Kans-infested land by Central Tractor Organisation, and of fallow and waste land by State Governments and farmers.
- (ii) Enactment by certain States of legislation for the cultivation of waste and fallow lands in their respective areas.

Mohwa FLOWER

827. Shri Saanganna: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Mohwa flower produced in each State of the country; and

(b) whether it is used only for manufacture of liquor or for some other industrial purposes?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Mohwa is not a cultivated crop and data about its production are not available. It is known to grow in the forests or on the road-sides in U.P., Bihar, Bombay, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Hyderabad and Madhya Bharat.

(b) Alcohol and Acetone can be prepared from Mohwa flowers. Experiments are also being conducted for the preparation of Citric and Acetic acids from these flowers. They are used by some people for edible purposes. Dried flowers have also been found to be excellent fattening food for the cattle.

CHIDAMBARAM TALUK SUGAR-CANE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

828. Shri Kachiroyar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum has been received by Government from the members of the Chidambaram Taluk Sugar-cane Growers' Association, Chidambaram requesting (i) for reduction in the price of manure supplied to them and (ii) for reduction in the railway freight for the carriage of sugar-cane to the factories in view of the reduced price of the sugar-cane; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). My Ministry has not received any representation from the Chidambaram Association regarding the reduction in the price of manures etc. Ministry of Railways, however, has received a representation for the grant of special concession in freight rates for the transport of sugarcane, which is being examined by them.

P. & T. EMPLOYEES IN WEST BENGAL

829. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in the Posts and Telegraphs Department in West Bengal who failed to opt in time for the Pay Commission scales of pay; and

(b) whether Government have received and are considering representations from such employees that their failure to so opt was due to inadvertence and misunderstanding and that they desire now to opt for the Pay Commission scales?