

(d) The latest letter referred to is dated 19th November 1951, from the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union to the Minister requesting enhancement of allowances paid to extra departmental agents, especially to extra departmental Branch Postmasters. The question of enhancement of allowances was examined and it was decided in June, 1952 that the Heads of Circles may, at their discretion, sanction allowances not exceeding Rs. 10/- p.m. in addition to the allowances justified when they are required to undertake work other than their usual one, viz. conveyance and/or delivery of mails in case of the extra-departmental postmasters.

T. B. AMONG P. & T. EMPLOYEES

281. Dr. Rama Rao : (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what is the total number of persons employed in the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

(b) What is the estimated number of persons falling ill due to Tuberculosis among these employees and their families, according to the T. B. Adviser to the Government of India?

(c) How many beds are considered necessary to meet their needs according to the same authority?

(d) How many beds have Government provided?

(e) Are Government contemplating constructing new Sanatoria for these employees and their families?

(f) If so, when and where and if not, why not?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 2,13,545 as on 31st March, 1952.

(b) The T.B. Adviser has not been specifically consulted on this point. Information is, however, being collected from the Heads of Circles. On the basis of the accepted morbidity rate of 0.5 per cent. the number would be roughly 4,000.

(c) About 800 according to departmental estimate.

(d) 13 beds are reserved for the P. & T. staff at various sanatoria.

(e) and (f). Government are considering a proposal to construct special P. and T. Wards in six selected sanatoria at Madanpalle, Miraj, Pendra Road, Kasauli, Itki and Madar (Ajmer), providing in all for 120 beds in the near future.

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N. W. RAILWAY (CONTRACTS)

282. Shri C. K. Chowdhary: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Government of India have accepted initial liability for the contractual claims over old N.W. Railway operating now over the Northern Railway?

(b) When did they accept such liability?

(c) How many such claims have so far been made and what is the total sum so claimed?

(d) How many claims have so far been accepted and paid?

(e) How many are still under consideration?

(f) How many claims have so far been rejected?

(g) How many of these rejected claims have been taken to court?

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

(a) and (b). Besides the claims for which the Government of India is legally liable in terms of article 8 of the Indian Independence (Rights, Property and Liabilities) Order 1947, India took over the initial liability for the contractual claims against the old N.W. Railway which are the legal liability of the Government of Pakistan as an *ex-gratia* measure in terms of Government of India Press Communiqué of 23rd May 1948.

(c) 4396 claims for Rs. 2,37,66,044.

(d) 803 claims

(e) 1987 claims

(f) 1606 claims

(g) 1 claim.

MILK POWDER

283. Shri Natesan: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) how much quantity of milk powder has been received from foreign countries from January to the end of October 1952; and

(b) how much of this quantity has been supplied to Madras State?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) It is presumed that the reference is to gift supplies received from abroad by the Central Government. The total quantity of milk powder received in the period including supplies received from the