

(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

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund is 10,34,600 lbs. The total quantity of condensed milk received in the same period is 2,30,172 lbs.

(b) 500,000 lbs. of milk powder and 50,000 lbs. of condensed milk. Besides, 20,000 lbs. of milk powder and 10,000 lbs. of condensed milk have been supplied to Madras in this period from a consignment received in the last year.

#### SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO MADRAS

284. Shri Veeraswamy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains required for annual consumption in Madras State;

(b) the number of tons of foodgrains asked for from the Centre by Madras State for 1951-52;

(c) the number of tons of foodgrains promised and allocated; and

(d) how many tons of foodgrains have so far been supplied?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) It is difficult to give any definite figure to represent the requirements of the State in which a large part of the population is not rationed. The requirements will depend a great deal on the price. The rationing requirements of Madras in a normal year used to range from 15 to 18 lakh tons.

(b) to (d). The basic plan of distribution of foodgrains is worked on the basis of the calendar year. For 1952 Madras estimated a deficit of 9.5 lakh tons at the beginning of the year, and they were promised a supply of 6.8 lakh tons as their ceiling import quota. The allocations upto November amount to 4.34 lakh tons, of which 4.06 lakh tons were despatched upto 7-11-52, the latest date for which the information is available.

#### SUPPLY OF RICE TO HYDERABAD

285. Shri H. G. Vaishnav: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice allocated to Hyderabad State out of the rice quota which India is going to receive from China and Japan within next few months; and

(b) what is the total demand of rice made by Hyderabad State to the Centre for the next six months?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The entire quantity of rice due to us from China against the existing purchases will have arrived before the end of December, 1952 and it is not proposed to allot any of this rice to Hyderabad during December, 1952.

No rice has been purchased from Japan.

(b) The Basic Plan of distribution of foodgrains is worked on the basis of the calendar year. For 1952, Hyderabad wanted 24,000 tons rice which has already been allotted to them. For 1953, their provisional estimate of the rice required from the Centre is 37,000 tons and the quota will be fixed at the beginning of next year taking into account overall availability of rice and the actual requirements of the State and other deficit areas.

#### SUBURBAN TRAIN SERVICE IN BOMBAY

286. Shri K. G. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a new arrangement has been made for running a local train at an interval of every five minutes on the suburban services of the Central and Western Railways in Bombay from January, 1953?

(b) How many local trains are running in the above-mentioned area at present?

(c) What will be the additional number of trains due to the introduction of this new scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, from 1st January 1953 arrangements have been made to maintain a 5-minute service into and out of Bombay during the morning and evening peak periods.

(b) 629 trains.

(c) 108 trains.

#### WAGONS (CAPACITY)

287. Shri Achuthan: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative load capacity of a metre-gauge and a broad-gauge wagon and the running cost of both types of trains per mile; and

(b) the approximate additional capital expenditure required per mile if a broad-gauge line is to be constructed instead of metre-gauge?