

(b) What was the total number of wagons supplied for sugar in the months of October, November, December, 1952 and January, 1953 on different Railways?

(c) What is the position of demand for wagons for cotton, coal, cement and foodgrains during the last four months?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No, in fact the transport made available in October, and November, 1952 was not fully availed of by the Trade. Railways could not, however, meet the accumulated demands in the subsequent month.

(b) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 62.]

(c) A statement showing the position of demand as well as supply of wagons for cotton, coal, cement and foodgrains on different Railways during the four months October, 1952 to January, 1953 is also laid on the Table. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 63.]

DRUG MANUFACTURING CONCERNS

457. Shri K. C. Sodhia: (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the number and names of the principal drug manufacturing concerns in India and what control do Government exercise over them and through what agency?

(b) Do Government make any purchases from those firms for use in their hospitals and if so, what was the total worth of purchases made during 1951-52 and 1952-53?

(c) What was the value of drugs, purchased by Government from foreign countries during the same period?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) A list of the principal drug manufacturing concerns in India is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 64.]

Drugs can be manufactured only on a licence granted under the Drugs Act, 1940 and the rules made thereunder and have to comply with standards laid down in the Act and Rules. State Governments are responsible for ensuring that drugs manufactured and sold conform to the required standards. Machinery to enforce the provisions of the Drugs Act and Rules has been set up in Part A and Part C States and will be set up in due course in Part B States.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the value of orders placed by the Director General of Supply and Disposal and Regional Offices under him for indigenous and imported drugs during 1951-52 and 1952-53 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 65.]

SHIPPING COMPANIES

458. Shri K. C. Sodhia: (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the amount of subsidy, if any, proposed to be paid to the Shipping Companies during the year 1953-54 and already paid during the year 1952-53?

(b) In what form has this subsidy been or will be paid and how much to each company?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No subsidy has been paid or is proposed to be paid to any shipping company during the year 1952-53 nor has any provision been made in the budget estimates for the year 1953-54 for payment of subsidy. A suggestion however for payment of an operational subsidy to the Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd. is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise at this stage.

RAJASTHAN DESERT

459. Shri Krishna Chandra: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether U.S.A. is giving any kind of assistance in the control of the spread of Rajasthan desert by tree planting and other means?

(b) What are the details of the scheme?

(c) What has so far been done in the matter?

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

(b) and (c). Equipment worth 25,000 dollars is being supplied under Operational Agreement No. 10—Development of Forest Research and Desert Afforestation. In this connection the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given to Shri N. P. Sinha's Starred Question No. 761 on 27th November 1952.

QUARTERS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES AT SONEPUR

460. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what amount has been spent over the construction of new staff quarters at Sonepur Railway Station?

(b) Have Government received any report or complaint about the construction of Railway quarters at Sonepur?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what action has been taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Rs. 8.40 lakhs have been spent over the construction of new quarters at Sonepur Railway Station upto January, 1953.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

FOOD CROPS COMPETITIONS

461. Shri Badshah Gupta: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the names and addresses of the persons State-wise who were the last recipients of rewards on an All-India basis for having stood first in producing richest food crops?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The names and addresses of the persons who obtained crop competition awards on All India basis during 1951-52 are given below State-wise:—

State	Name and address of prize winner	Crop
U.P.	1. Shri Jai Pal Chandra s/o Shri Bireshwar Chandra, Bullandshahar, U.P.	Potato.
Punjab]	2. Sardar Gurdev Singh s/o Sardar Bijla Singh, National Model Farm, Village Kalalmajra, near Khanna, Tehsil Samrala, Distt. Ludhiana. Punjab.	Wheat.
Punjab	3. Shri Walaiti Ram Lambardar s/o Shri Sulekh Ram, of Village Agwar Khaju Bajju, P.A. and Tehsil Jagraon, District Ludhiana, Punjab.	Gram.

State	Name and address of prize winner	Crop
Bombay	4. Shri Bhimgonda Dada Patil, s/o Shri Dada Adgonda Patil of Tamadage, Taluk Shirol, District Kolhapur, Bombay.	Jowar
Bombay	5. Shri Vaman Ramchandra Marathe s/o Shri Ramchandra Mahadu Marathe, of Arthe Bk., Taluka Shirpur, Distt. West Khandesh, Bombay.	Bajra.
Coorg	6. Shri C. Sangayya s/o Shri Jangama Chikabasavaiah of Alur Village, P.O. Somwarpet, Coorg.	Paddy.

LABOUR WELFARE FUNDS

462. Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of balances as on the 31st December, 1952 of the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Cess Fund and Coal Mines Labour Welfare Cess Fund;

(b) whether they are invested and earning interest;

(c) if so, the amount of interest accrued till the 31st December, 1952; and

(d) if not invested, why not?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Rs. 1,13,43,000 and Rs. 2,76,08,000 respectively.

(b) to (d). The Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946, does not provide for investment being made. Similarly, there is no provision for investment of monies in the General Welfare Account of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund. In the case of the Housing Account of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund, however, there is provision in the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947, enabling the Housing Board to invest its monies in Government securities or with the approval of the Government of India, in other securities. Information regarding investments and interests thereon is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.