

(c) Due to changed conditions, further consideration of this Project has been postponed.

(d) No.

RAILWAY OFFICERS

32. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 354 on the 5th March, 1952 regarding Class II Officers in Railways and also to the supplementary statement II showing action taken on assurances, etc., given during the Fifth Session of Parliament and state the reasons for not confirming the officers who have been officiating for a number of years as shown in reply to part (b) of serial No. 14 of the statement mentioned above?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Since Shri Massey's question was replied to, 67 Class II officers have been confirmed and the confirmation of 35 more is being finalised and orders are expected to issue shortly. The confirmation of a few more officers is pending decisions on cadres for the Regrouped Railways and fixation of combined seniority. The remaining officers who are working against temporary posts sanctioned for specific purposes for short periods or are officiating in temporary vacancies in the permanent cadre cannot be confirmed for want of permanent vacancies in the permanent cadre.

TAPE-RELAY SYSTEM LINK

33. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) when the high speed tape-relay system link from Calcutta for expeditious disposal of the foreign telegraph traffic was first started;

(b) how many telegrams have been sent and received under this system since the inception of the system; and

(c) where the Overseas Communications Service operational office is located in Calcutta?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 17th November, 1952.

(b) Number of telegrams handled from 17-11-1952 to 31-1-1953:

Forwarded	Received	Total
83,380	77,668	161,048

(c) Central Telegraph Office Building, Calcutta.

A.I.W.F.C.

34. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons have been employed in the fourteen Annapurna Cafeterias in India and the mobile van in New Delhi;

(b) the amounts of employees' wage bill and their feeding costs;

(c) the net income of the A.I.W.F.C. after deducting establishment charges and other necessary expenses of these Cafeterias; and

(d) how the surplus amount is going to be spent?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Total number of persons employed is 379.

(b) The monthly wage bill of the employees amounts to Rs. 18,500/- and their feeding cost about Rs. 7,800/- per month.

(c) A net income of Rs. 83,500/- is estimated up to end of March, 1953.

(d) The net income will be utilised for expanding the activities of the Council.

BOMBAY PORT

35. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modernize the Bombay port; and

(b) if so, whether any estimate has been made of the cost involved in modernizing that port?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Government have approved in principle a scheme proposed by the Bombay Port Trust for the essential improvements necessary for the modernization of the Princess and Victoria Docks.

(b) The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 4.30 crores.

HEALTH MINISTER'S WELFARE FUND

36. **Shri Charak:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Health Minister's Charity Fund has been re-designated as the Health Minister's Welfare Fund;

(b) if so, since when:

(c) what are the rules and objects of the Fund; and

(d) how much money has been collected under this Fund since its inception and what use has been made of this Fund?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes.

(b) 23rd December, 1952.

(c) The rules and objects of the Fund are given in Government of India, Ministry of Health's Resolutions dated the 19th February, 1951 and 23rd December, 1952.

(d) Collections up to the 31st January, 1953:—Rs. 5,45,407-14-1. Disbursements up to the 31st January, 1953:—Rs. 2,03,88-4-0.

Financial assistance in furtherance of the objects of the Fund has been given to deserving institutions, mostly voluntary and to persons in need of medical aid beyond their resources.

PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

37. Shri B. K. Das: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme for procurement of food grains has been drawn up by different States for the year, 1953;

(b) if so, what are the targets set up by them as regards rice and wheat; and

(c) what States will have exportable surplus and for what quantities?

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

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 10].

DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES

38. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have accepted a financial aid of ten million Kroners from the Government of Norway for development of fisheries; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House details regarding the plan to utilise this financial assistance?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, but the

total financial aid of ten million Kroners is not confined to development of fisheries alone. The Fisheries Community Development Project in Travancore-Cochin, which also includes improvement of health and sanitation in the area, is likely to involve an expenditure of approximately 4 million Kroners only in 1953-54.

(b) A statement showing the distribution of expenditure on various items included in the Project is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 11].

CYCLONE (DAMAGE)

39. Shri Venkataraman: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of damage to the Railway property in (i) Tanjore District and (ii) Trichy District owing to the recent cyclone in those areas;

(b) whether damaged stations and railway tracks have been restored; and

(c) whether it is proposed to abandon part of the railway line between Vedaranyam and Agastiampalli, which has been washed away as a result of the cyclone?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Damage to Railway property caused by the recent cyclone is estimated at—

(i) Rs. 6.04 lakhs in Tanjore District, and

(ii) Rs. 1.285 lakhs in Trichinopoly District.

(b) Damaged railway tracks have already been restored except between Agastiampalli and Point Calimere. Most of the damaged stations and buildings have already been repaired and repairs to the remaining are in progress.

(c) No. The track between Vedaranyam and Agastiampalli has already been restored. Work on restoring the track between Agastiampalli and Point Calimere is being started. This work could not be started earlier due to the nature of the breaches.

रेल-यात्रियों के लिये प्लेटफार्म-सैड

४०. श्री भार० एन० सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) ऐन० ई० रेलवे (उत्तर-पूर्व रेलवे) के किन किन स्टेशनों पर