

CYCLONE IN MADRAS STATE

47. Shri Nambiar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted an advance of one month's pay to all Railwaymen affected by the recent cyclone in the Madras State and if so, the total number of persons who have got the advance;

(b) whether it is a fact that all temporary and casual labourers were not given such advances; and if so, why;

(c) whether it is a fact that these advances are to be re-paid in twelve instalments, while the Government of Madras have ordered re-payment in twenty-four instalments from its employees;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to extend the period of re-payment to twenty-four instalments;

(e) what other measures of relief were granted to the affected;

(f) whether special casual leave was granted to the affected on the day of cyclone and the two days following;

(g) whether any request was made by the staff and the Labour Union in this connection; and

(h) if so, what action was taken?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). An advance of one month's pay was granted to all permanent Railway Staff headquartered in the Cyclone affected area on 1-12-1952. In the case of temporary staff also the advance was payable on production of a surety from any permanent staff not governed by Payment of Wages Act. About 16,000 permanent and about 1,600 temporary staff had been granted this advance. Such of the temporary staff who were not able to produce the requisite sureties were not granted this advance.

(c) The advance granted is recoverable in 12 monthly instalments. No information is available in regard to the procedure followed by the Government of Madras.

(d) No

(e) Such of the staff who were rendered homeless were temporarily accommodated in coaches or wagons. Prompt steps were taken to repair the damaged railway quarters.

(f) All temporary and permanent Workshop staff at Golden Rock were granted in relaxation of the rules leave

not due on half average pay to the extent required to cover their absence on 1st and 2nd December, 1952.

(g) and (h). Yes. The requests were acceded to to the extent indicated above.

ALLOTMENT OF FOODGRAINS TO TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

48. Kumari Annie Mascarene: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quota of foodgrains allotted to Travancore-Cochin State for 1953;

(b) what are the different kinds of foodgrains allotted to that State; and

(c) whether the quota consists of broken rice, raw rice and boiled rice and if so, what are their respective quantities?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). Three lakh tons of rice and any quantity of wheat that they may need.

(c) The break-up of the rice quota has not been fixed.

FUEL AND LUBRICATING OILS (SUBSIDY)

49. Shri Viswanatha Reddy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 1012 regarding subsidy to fuel and lubricating oils asked on the 18th June, 1952 and state whether any reply has been received from the Government of Madras regarding the proposal for subsidising fuel oil for agricultural purposes?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Attention is invited to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 670 on 15th December, 1952.

AJANI RAILWAY STATION

50. Shri K. G. Deshmukh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation to re-open the "Ajani" Railway Station near Nagpur on the Central Railways;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision in this direction;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, how long it is likely to take to re-open the said Station; and

(d) what were the causes for closing down this Railway Station?