

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): During 1953, the Government of India have undertaken to supply to West Bengal one lakh tons of rice for issue through normal ration shops and upto 50,000 tons for issue through special shops at economic price in the Greater Calcutta area. West Bengal Government's requirements of wheat will be met in full.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES AT KHARAGPUR

*167. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Railway employees of Kharagpur City regarding their demand for house rent allowance; and

(b) if so, what is the decision of Government on the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration of Government.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN RAJASTHAN

114. **Shri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) the length of each Highway, the names of places through which they pass;

(c) the length of National Highway No. 8 in Rajasthan;

(d) the mileage of National Highway No. 8 already constructed; and

(e) the amount spent so far and the amount proposed to be spent in the year 1953-54?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Two National Highways Nos. 8 and 3.

(b) National Highway No. 8 is 990 miles long and connects Delhi with Bombay via Alwar, Ajmer, Beawar, Dewair, Udaipur, Himmatnagar, Ahmedabad, Baroda and Bulsar.

National Highway No. 3 is 730 miles long and connects Bombay with Agra via Nasik, Dhulia, Indore, Guna, Shivpuri, Gwalior and Dholpur.

(c) 370 miles.

(d) 345 miles.

(e) Rs. 28.39 lakhs since 1st April 1950, and Rs 18 lakhs next year.

MALNAD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

115. **Shri R. G. Dubey:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by the Malnad Development Committee; and

(b) the steps that have been or are contemplated to be taken to implement the recommendations?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The recommendations made by the Central Malnad Planning Committee in its Interim Report were in the nature of all round development of the Malnad region.

(b) As stated in reply to parts (b) and (c) of Starred Question No. 1811 by Shri Thimmappa Gowda on the 6th Oct. 1951, the Government of India considered that it would not be possible to implement the Committee's recommendations in view of the heavy expenditure involved, and it was left to the State Governments to take up the schemes recommended by the Committee out of their own resources.

TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTRE

116. **Shri Karni Singhji:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the advisability of opening a Technical Training Centre at Bikaner in Rajasthan has been considered?

(b) If so, has it been decided to open one?

(c) By when is the same likely to be started?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

117. **Shri Raghavaiah:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the names of the countries with which India has already entered into an Air Transport Agreement and the terms of these agreements?

(b) Is it a fact that informal talks were held between the representatives of the Government of India and U.S.A. in this connection in November, 1951 and if so, what was the stage at which the talks terminated?

(c) Is it a fact that correspondence is going on between the Government of India and U.S.A. in this connection