

(d) if so, what action has been taken; and

(e) whether the system of recruitment of casual labour has been stopped or is contemplated to be stopped?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The total number of casual labour employed on Indian Railways as on 1-1-1953 is 164,000 approximately.

(b) Under the extant orders of Government, casual labour comprises of the following categories of employees:—

- (i) employees paid from contingencies except those retained without limit of tenure;
- (ii) labour on projects, irrespective of duration except those transferred from other temporary or permanent employment; and
- (iii) seasonal labour who are employed for specific works of less than 6 months' duration; but if such labour is shifted from one work to another of the same type, and the total continuous period of such work at any one time is more than six months' duration they should be treated as temporary after the expiry of the first six months of the continuous period.

On a large undertaking like the Indian Railways there are bound to be works of a purely temporary nature for which staff should be engaged only for short periods. The category of casual labour as defined above cannot be eliminated on Railways.

(c) and (d). A few minor complaints were received about periodical break of service but these have been investigated and rectified wherever necessary.

(e) No.

IMPORT OF RICE FROM U.S.A.

224. Shri N. P. Sinha: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what quantity of rice was imported into India from U.S.A. to the years 1951 and 1952?

(b) Is this rice sold in India as "American rice" or is it mixed up with other rice?

(c) Has U.S.A. proposed a cut in their export of rice recently?

(d) If so, what are the reasons?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) No rice was imported into India from U.S.A. during the calendar years 1951 and 1952.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF HEALTH

225. Shri Madhao Reddi: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state what are the important decisions taken by the Central Council of Health, which met in Hyderabad?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): A copy of the resolutions passed at the first meeting of the Central Council of Health held at Hyderabad on the 29th, 30th and 31st January, 1953, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 40.]

ACREAGE UNDER CULTIVATION

226. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the latest estimated acreage of land under different crops during the years 1951-52 and 1952-53 giving the estimated quantity of production in each case?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 41.]

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RAILWAY LINE

227. Shri L. N. Mishra: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there are proposals for the restoration and construction of railway lines within the next four years?

(b) If so, the mileage of such restoration as well as construction on the different Railways?

(c) What are the names of such lines that are to be constructed or restored in Bihar?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The constructions and restorations in progress and the new ones to be started in 1953-54 have been given in the Railway Budget for 1953-54. It is not possible to state at present the new works which will be commenced during the following years.

(c) The restoration of the Bhagalpur-Mandar Hill section and the construction of the Madhepura-Murliganj