

(b) whether Government have received complaints regarding lack of facilities and misuse of railway "pani-walas" by railway authorities at the stations;

(c) if so, the step taken and likely to be taken to mitigate the difficulties of the travelling public;

(d) what are the additional arrangements and facilities, if any, envisaged in the year 1953; and

(e) whether uniformity in this direction has been achieved in all the zones?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) At all stations, large and small, except passenger halts, arrangements exist for supply of drinking water to passengers. Both passengers in Waiting Halls and in trains can avail of these arrangements throughout the year. In summer months these arrangements are further supplemented as necessary. As passenger halts are not regular stations, the provision of such arrangements are not possible there.

(b) and (c). Occasional complaints are received. These are promptly attended to and remedial measures taken by the Railway Administration concerned as found necessary.

(d) Additional arrangements for supply of drinking water to passengers during the current year include, (a) installation of water coolers for supply of electrically cooled drinking water at more stations, (b) provision of additional water-huts, tube-wells, water-fountains on platforms, (c) appointment of additional water-men during hot weather months and (d) experiments with the arrangement of carriage and supply of drinking water in moving trains over certain sections.

(e) Yes, generally.

FOOD POSITION

302. Shri B. K. Das: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the opening stock position of foodgrains in the year 1953 with particular reference to the following:—

(i) stock of rice and wheat with the Central Government;

(ii) the total stock of rice and wheat with the State Governments; and

(iii) the stock of imported rice and of internally procured rice?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (i) Rice 38,000 tons and Wheat 3.69 lakh tons.

(ii) Rice 5.73 lakh tons and Wheat 5.89 lakh tons.

(iii) So far as the 38,000 tons stocks of rice which were with the Centre were of imported variety. As regards the stock of rice held by the State Governments it is difficult to give precisely their break up but most of it consisted of rice procured internally.

QUARTERS FOR RAILWAYS STAFF

303. Shri Frank Anthony: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of quarters erected, in each zone, for Class IV staff during the year 1952-53;

(b) the number of quarters erected, in each zone, for Class III staff during the year 1952-53;

(c) the total cost incurred in respect of Class III and Class IV staff quarters respectively;

(d) the number of essential Class IV staff still not provided with quarters in each zone; and

(e) the number of essential Class III staff still not provided with quarters in each zone?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (e). A statement showing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 32.]

DERAILMENT OF TRAIN NEAR SANKALPUR

304. Sardar A. S. Saigal: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that near Sankalpur station, on or about the 28th December, 1952, a passenger train coming from Gandhidham derailed?

(b) How many persons died and how many were injured and what was the loss sustained?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) At 5-45 hours on 28th December, 1952, 65 Up Mixed train partly derailed while running between Sankalpur and Piprala stations.

(b) No one was killed but six passengers sustained injuries—two grievous and four slight.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES (RETRENCHMENT)

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

(a) the total number of Railway-men retrenched, zone-wise and category-wise since the introduction of the Zonal System; and