

AGARTALA POST OFFICE

241. Shri Biren Dutt: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agartala Post Office has become too small to carry on its daily duties;

(b) whether any representation has been received from the Posts and Telegraphs Union to this effect; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) There is shortage of accommodation in the Agartala Post Office building.

(b) No.

(c) There is a proposal (i) to extend the existing building and (ii) to construct a separate building for Telephone Exchange and Wireless Station which are located in the existing building and thus release that portion for the use of the Post Office.

FOOD POSITION

242. Shri Balmiki: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the stock of foodgrains in every State as in June, 1953; and

(b) whether stocks of grains with every State are sufficient to meet scarcity conditions?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwal): (a) A statement showing the stock with every State at the end of June, 1953 is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 55.]

(b) Yes, Sir.

रेल दुर्घटना

२४३. सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि जनवरी, १९५३ से लेकर जून, १९५३ की अवधि में रेल दुर्घटनाओं के कारण कितने मामलों में क्षतिपूर्ति देनी पड़ी है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): During the period January to June 1953, sixteen accidents occurred to trains carrying passengers involving loss of life and/or grievous hurt and/or damage to railway property to the value of approximately Rs. 20,000/- or more and fifty-four claims are reported as received so far in connection therewith. Six of these claims were returned to the claimants by the Claims Commissioners, as they were not preferred in terms of the prescribed procedure. Another thirty-one cases are under disposal by the Claims Commissioners concerned. The remaining seventeen claims are being dealt with by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioners under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

PASSENGER SHED AT KUTCH-MANDVI PORT

244. Shri Gidwani: (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chief Commissioner, Kutch has recommended to Government to construct a passenger shed at Kutch-Mandvi Port?

(b) Have Government considered the same?

(c) What is their decision?

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

(b) and (c). The proposal has been sanctioned by Government.

ALLOTMENT OF WAGONS

245. Shri Gidwani: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Punch Mahals Chamber of Commerce complained to the General Manager, Western Railway, that there were irregularities in the allotment of wagons to merchants?

(b) If so, what action has been taken by Government to redress the grievances?