

EXTENSIONS TO RAILWAY STAFF

779. Shri P. Subba Rao: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many employees in the Eastern Railway in the former B. N. Railway portion have been given extensions or re-appointments in 1952-53 and since 1st April, 1953?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for such extensions or re-appointments?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Number of staff granted extension of service—Nil.

Number of staff re-appointed during 1952-53—4.

Number of staff re-appointed since 1st April 1953 to 8th September 1953—12.

(b) The employees concerned could not be replaced suitably due to shortage of experienced and trained staff.

हुगली नदी में अकारा के स्थान पर ठोकर (स्पर)

७८०. श्रीरघुनाथ सिंह: क्या यातायात मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या खडकवास्ला के केन्द्रीय जल तथा विद्युत् अनुसन्धान केन्द्र ने हुगली नदी में अकारा के स्थान पर १३०० फुट की एक ठोकर (स्पर) बनाने का कोई सुझाव दिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो प्रस्तावित ठोकर पर कितना व्यय होने का अनुमान है ;

(ग) इस ठोकर से क्या लाभ होने की आशा है ; और

(घ) इस ठोकर के कितने समय में पूरा होने की आशा है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, the length of the proposed spur is 1,200 feet.

(b) Rs. 34.53 lakhs.

(c) The construction of the spur is expected to improve the navigable channel in the Sankrail reach of the River Hooghly.

(d) By September, 1954.

KADUR—MANGALORE RAILWAY LINE

781. Shri Siddananjappa: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is a demand for the construction of Kadur—Chikmagalur—Sakalaspur—Mangalore Railway line in Mysore and Madras States?

(b) If so, what steps have Government taken or propose to take in the matter?

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

(b) With a view to examining the justification and prospects of this project, a survey is to be undertaken for a line from Mangalore to Hassan in the first instance. The construction of a line from Kadur to Sakalaspur via Chikmagalur will be considered, after a decision has been taken in the Mangalore-Hassan line.

HOTELS ON PLATFORMS

782. Shri P. Subba Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the licence-fees charged from contractors of vegetarian and non-vegetarian hotels on the platforms of the Eastern Railway;

(b) the rates for meals charged from passengers;

(c) the reasons for different charges, if any; and

(d) the steps the Railway Authorities propose to take to maintain uniform rates for meals?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The hon. Member is presumably refer-

ring to the fees charged from vegetarian and non-vegetarian refreshment rooms on the Eastern Railway. The position for 1952-53 in that context is as follows:—

Ex-E.I. Railway portion

Vegetarian Refreshment Rooms	Rs. 7,735.
Non-vegetarian Refreshment Rooms...	Rs. 13,239.

Ex-B.N. Railway portion

Vegetarian Refreshment Rooms	Rs. 82,500.
Non-vegetarian Refreshment Rooms ...	Rs. 32,500.

(b) The rates for meals charged from passengers are as follows:

Ex-E.I. Railway portion

	Vegetarian Rs.	Non-vegetarian Rs.
Prepared in vegetable products.	1-8-0	1-12-0
Prepared in pure ghee.	1-12-0	2-0-0

(NOTE.—At Burdwan station, however, the rate is Rs. 1-8-0 for vegetarian and Rs. 1-12-0 for non-vegetarian meals which are cooked in pure ghee.)

Ex-B.N. Railway portion

	Vegetarian Rs.	Non-Vegetarian Rs.
1st class ...	1 4 0	1 8 0
2nd class ...	0 12 0	1 0 0

NOTE.—Prepared in vegetable product.

(c) The rates are based, as far as possible, on the prevailing market rates in the locality. Some variation is also due to the variation in type of food served.

(d) The possibility of rationalisation of the rates at present charged is already under examination by Government.

LONG-STAPLE COTTON

783. Shri Amjad Ali: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to encourage the cotton

growers of Garo Hills (Assam) to cultivate and grow long-staple cotton according to the promise given by Government during the last Budget Session of the Parliament?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): It is not clear which promise the hon. Member is referring to as no such promise seems to have been made during the last Budget Session of the Parliament. However, in connection with a question by Dr. P. S. Deshmukh answered on 2nd June, 1952, it was stated that certain information about cultivation of long staple cotton in the country, would be furnished to Parliament and the required information was supplied to the Department of Parliamentary Affairs on 19th November, 1952 for being placed on the Table of the House.

According to available information, long staple cotton does not do well in Garo Hills.

PROCUREMENT PRICES OF PADDY

784. Shri Buchhikotalah: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the procurement prices fixed for paddy for the year 1953-54 in the various States; and

(b) if there is any difference, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) A statement showing the procurement prices fixed for paddy/rice for the year 1952-53 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 64.]

Procurement prices for the *kharif* season 1953-54 beginning from November, 1953 are under consideration.

(b) The difference in the procurement prices is due to the fact that variable factors such as general condition of the crop, the market prices and the price trends of other competing crops are taken into consideration while fixing the procurement prices in different States.

CENTRAL AND REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

785. Shri Sheekha Bhai: Will the