

REGISTERED BOOK POST PACKETS

365. Shri Karni Singhji: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the receipts during the period from January to April 1953 under—

(i) registered book post packets; and

(ii) registered parcels; and

(b) the receipts under the above two heads separately for the months of May and June 1953?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). No account is maintained of the revenue derived from each class of postal traffic. The information asked for is not, therefore, available.

WATERMEN ON RAILWAYS

366. Prof. D. C. Sharma: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of watermen posted on the Northern Railway?

(b) How many of them are in permanent service and how many in seasonal service?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 2,800 watermen.

(b) 1,478 are employed permanently and the remaining 1,322 temporarily for the hot weather months only.

RATIONED AREAS

367. Shri Dabhi: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether there are some rationed areas in the country, where besides ration shops there are economic price shops where additional rationed foodgrains are sold to ration-card-holders?

(b) Are there some rationed areas where besides ration shops, there are economic price shops where rationed foodgrains in limited quantities are allowed to be imported for personal consumption?

(c) Are there some rationed areas where there are neither economic shops

nor any rationed foodgrains allowed to be imported for personal consumption?

(d) If the answers to parts (a) to (c) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for this difference between different rationed areas?

(e) What are the names of the rationed areas referred to above?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c) and (e). In Calcutta Industrial Areas and Delhi rationed area there are economic price shops where limited additional quantities of rice are sold to ration card holders. In Delhi rationed area wheat and its products are also sold from these shops without any quantitative limit.

In Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Calcutta Industrial area limited quantities of rice are allowed to be imported on private account for sale through some special shops to ration card holders against their ration quantum and not in addition to it.

In all rationed areas one can import limited quantities of rationed foodgrains if it is the produce of his own land to be adjusted against his ration card. In Delhi one can import rationed foodgrains and in Calcutta rice only even if these are not the produce of his own land, but to be counted against his ration card.

(d) The Economic Shops in Calcutta and Delhi have been opened to minimise smuggling of rationed foodgrains into these areas from the adjoining producing areas.

CLERKS IN GORAKHPUR DIVISION OF P. AND T. DEPARTMENT

368. Shri Dhusiya: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total number of permanent and temporary clerks in the Gorakhpur Division of the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

(b) What is the number of Scheduled Castes employees there?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Total Number of permanent clerks 149