

Goods Clerks	2½ months.
Train Clerks	1½ months.
Ticket Collectors	1 month.
Apprentice Asstt. Permanent Way Inspectors.	5 months in the 1st year and 4 months in the 3rd year.
Apprentice Asstt. Inspectors of Works.	2 months.

SUGAR

337. **Shri Anirudha Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the quantity of sugar purchased on Government account from abroad during the year ending 31st October, 1953?

(b) What was the quantity of sugar produced in India allowed to be exported during the same period and if so, to what country or countries?

(c) What quantity of sugar purchased abroad has actually arrived in India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 2,04,000 tons.

(b) 6,316 tons to Japan and Persian Gulf Sheikdoms.

(c) 95,000 tons upto 30th November, 1953.

APPORTIONMENT OF RAILWAY TRAFFIC EARNINGS

338. **Shri V. Missir:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the system Government propose to introduce for the apportionment of traffic earnings and preparation of accounts connected therewith on the Indian Government Railways with effect from 1st April, 1954?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): It has been decided to introduce apportionment of earnings with effect from 1st April, 1954 to determine the earnings attributable to each zone. The process of apportionment is proposed to be simplified by not segregating certain miscellaneous charges levied, in addition to freight, in the case of Goods

and Parcels traffic. Some simplification in the apportionment of passenger earnings will be achieved by improving the system of preparation of returns by the stations to the Accounts Office. Apportioned earnings will be compiled by each zone by taking into account its share as worked out and shown in the statements exchanged between the Receiving and the Forwarding Railways.

RICE

339. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the acreage of land under rice cultivation in the year 1953?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): 67.5 millions acres according to the All-India First Estimate of Rice, 1953-54, which covers only the early sowings.

PRIVATE RAILWAY LINES IN BIHAR

340. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total mileage covered by private Railway lines and the company that is running them in the State of Bihar?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The total mileage is 149.25 miles and the Companies running these railways in the State of Bihar are:—

The Company or the agency working the Railway	Railway
Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway Company.	Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway (65.16 miles)
Distt. Board of Patna.	Bukhtiarpur Bihar Light Railway. (33.60 miles)
Dehri Rohtas Light Railway Company.	Dehri Rohtas Light Railway. (24.09 miles.)
Futwah Islampur Light Railway Company.	Futwah Islampur Light Railway. (27.00 miles)