

INDONESIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

453. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some quantity of food stuff was received from the Indonesian Red Cross Society for distribution in the food scarcity areas; and

(b) if so, what quantity and when?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). The Government of India have not received any food gift from the Indonesian Red Cross Society, but the Indian Red Cross Society have received from them 567 bags maize, 200 bags green peas and 110 bags peeled groundnuts in September, 1953.

SHIFTING OF OFFICES AT MUZAFFARPUR

454. **Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) when the offices of R. T. S. and R. M. E. Muzaffarpur shifted to Arthur Butler Building; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Government continued paying the rent of the previously occupied building even after its vacation, for six months at the rate of Rs. 650 p.m. along with the rent of the newly occupied building?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A part of the offices of R.T.S. and R.M.E. was shifted on 27th February, 1953.

(b) No. The Arthur Butler Buildings were taken over on 5th December, 1952. The Buildings previously occupied could not be released before 31st May, 1953, as these were required for certain other branches of the offices of the R.T.S. and R.M.E. which could not be accommodated in the new buildings and were later on provided with necessary accommodation by shifting certain other offices to Samastipur. Rent on the previously occupied buildings was paid upto 31st May, 1953 only.

COMPENSATION TO DISPLACED ROAD TRANSPORT OPERATORS

455. { **Sardar Hukam Singh:**
Shri Bheekha Bhai:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India propose to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 in pursuance of the promise given by them during 1950 at the time of discussion on the Road Transport Corporation Bill in Parliament;

(b) whether Government have examined the question of the payment of compensation to the displaced operators as recommended by the Select Committee on the Road Transport Corporation Bill; and

(c) if so, whether any decision has been taken and any policy evolved in respect of the compensation to be paid to the displaced operators, whose permits may not be renewed under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 in order to hand over their routes to the Road Transport Corporation?

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

(c) The matter is still under consideration.

ROAD TRANSPORT

456. { **Shri Bahadur Singh:**
Sardar Hukam Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total investments made on behalf of the Railways in the Road Transport undertakings in the State of Orissa which are being worked under quadrite arrangements;

(b) the profits which have accrued to the Railways on the above capital during 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53; and

(c) whether Government propose to invest any further amount in these undertakings?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The amount of money invested by the

Central Government in the Orissa Road Transport Company, Ltd., is Rs. 3 lakhs.

(b) The Company commenced operation from 1st January, 1951. A dividend of Rs. 12,610/11/- representing 5½ per cent. of capital for the period of 15 months ending 31st March, 1952 was paid to the Railway.

The Company earned a total profit of Rs. 3,511/14/4 during 1952-53. The Board of Directors of the Company did not, however, recommend payment of any dividend, so that the profits may be utilized towards stabilization of the funds of the Company.

(c) The question of further investment by Central Government in the Orissa Road Transport Company is under consideration.

GRAZING FEES

457. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the railway contractors do realize grazing fees from the neighbouring villages of railway line on the Eastern Railway Zone in Orissa;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the contractors are licensed to do so; and

(c) if so, what is the amount of licence fees paid by them annually to Government?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). No. Only grass-cutting rights are sold out to outsiders by public auction but the purchaser is not permitted to sublet. No case of such subletting has been reported so far.

(c) The grass-cutting rights are sold annually by public auction and the question of payment of annual licence fee by purchasers does not therefore arise.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR VILLUPURAM

458. Shri Muniswamy: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a derailment took place on the 7th November, 1953 on the Southern Railway between Villupuram and Katpadi Railway Junctions?

(b) If so, what were the causes of the derailment?

(c) What was the total estimated loss?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) At about 16.16 hours on 6th November, 1953 and not on 7th November, 1953 as stated in the Question, while No. 2121 Down Goods train was running between Velanandal and Tandarai stations on the Katpadi-Villupuram Section of the Southern Railway, 18 wagons on the train derailed and canted.

(b) An Inter-departmental enquiry by District Officers of the Railway, which was held on 13th and 14th November, 1953, has not yet been completed and the cause of the accident will be known on its completion.

(c) The approximate cost of damage to the rolling stock and permanent way was Rs. 9,500.

ROAD TRANSPORT SERVICES IN HYDERABAD

459. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sum of rupees twenty-two lakhs provided for in the budget for the current year for investment in the Road Transport Services in Hyderabad State has since been invested; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) The Government of Hyderabad have recently informed the Government of India that they have decided