

major ports while the minor ports are under the control of State Governments.

#### LOCOMOTIVES

**464. Shri Bell Ram Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many Metre Gauge Locomotives were purchased during 1952-53 and are being purchased in 1953-54?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** Number of Metre Gauge Locomotives ordered during:

1952-53	... 70
1953-54	250

#### FIRE ACCIDENTS

**465. Shri Vallatharas:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fire accidents on the Indian Railways in the years 1952 and 1953;

(b) the safeguards adopted by Government to prevent such accidents in future; and

(c) the number of persons who died or were injured in accidents on the Indian Railways in the years 1952 and 1953?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The number of serious accidents, i.e., accidents by fire to trains carrying passengers attended with loss of human life and/or grievous hurt and/or damage to Railway property to the value of approximately Rs. 20,000 or over in each, was two each in 1952 and 1953 (up to date).

(b) The safeguards adopted include educating the travelling public about the serious consequence of—

- (i) the carriage of inflammable substances such as petrol, cinema films etc. as luggage in passenger compartments, and
- (ii) discarding lighted match sticks or burning cigarette or

bidi stumps inside the compartments,

by displaying warning notices in English and regional languages, exhibiting pictorial posters, etc. prominently in selected places at important stations and in train compartments, and by wide publicity through news papers and Railway Time Tables;

Rendering fireproof the material used in the vestibules and coaches, especially in upper class compartments;

Provision of ash trays in upper class compartments;

Eliminating or reducing as much as possible the use of inflammable material used in the construction of some Rail Cars;

Provision of spark arrestors in passenger train engines;

Improving the design of roof construction of certain types of multiple unit stock to provide greater immunity from the effects of fire due to electrical faults etc.;

Instructions to staff not to smoke in the vicinity or inside luggage vans when loading or unloading parcels;

Provision of adequate number of Fire Extinguishers in trains and their proper maintenance and so on.

(c) The number killed and injured in the accidents referred to in the reply to part (a) was as follows:

	Killed	Injured
1952	1	15
1953 (up to date)	5	16

#### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' UNIONS

**466. Shri Vallatharas:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of the Central Government employees' Unions which have been granted the Trade Union status so far?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** It is presumed the hon. Member requires information regarding

unions of Central Government employees which have been granted recognition by Government. This information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course

#### RAILWAY TICKET EXAMINERS

**467. Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Ticket Collectors and Travelling Ticket Examiners working on the Northern Railway; and

(b) the number of Scheduled Caste Ticket Collectors, Travelling Ticket Examiners and Guards?

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

Ticket Collectors	1,187
Travelling Ticket Examiners.	654
(b) Ticket Collectors:	23
Travelling Ticket Examiners:	11
Guards:	15

#### ALL-INDIA CROP COMPETITION PRIZES

**468. Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the criterion for awarding All-India Crop Competition prizes, and the certificate of *Krishi Pandit*?

(b) Are the prizes and the certificates of *Krishi Pandit* awarded to the competitors of all crops or to certain main crops only?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) All India Crop Competition prizes and certificates of *Krishi Pandit* are granted to the individuals who obtain the highest yield per acre amongst the competitors competing for the specified crops.

(b) The prizes and certificates are awarded only for six crops viz. (1) paddy (2) wheat (3) potato (4) gram (5) *jowar* and (6) *bajra*.

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#### HINDI ADDRESS LETTERS

**469. Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that letters addressed in Nagri Script are often sent to the Dead Letter Office in the Madras city;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to remove such difficulties; and

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

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) A few cases have come to the notice of Government.

(b) Yes.

(c) Transcription Centres having staff knowing Hindi have been opened to prevent such articles from being consigned to Dead Letter Offices and delayed thereby.

#### चीनी

४७०. श्री बाबसाह गूट : क्या सख्त तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९५३ में अब तक किन किन देशों से कितने कितने मूल्य की चीनी आयात की गई है ?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** The total cost of 2.5 lakh tons sugar purchased so far for import into India, including import duty, port trust and clearing charges, works out to Rs. 17.17 crores.

#### LOCOMOTIVES

**472. Shri Jethalal Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of heavy goods locomotives that have been manufactured in Chittaranjan locomotive factory from January to September 1953?

(b) How many of them have been put on the track for use?