

(b) Yes, as and when the progressive availability of coaches permits of this.

RAILWAY SENIORITY COMMITTEES

*1404. **Shri Frank Anthony:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many Seniority Committees are at work in respect of all the Railways;

(b) the total expenditure so far incurred in respect of these Seniority Committees;

(c) whether the dates for the completion of the work of these Committees have been constantly extended;

(d) when the work of these Committees is likely to be completed; and

(e) whether it is a fact that a number of senior railwaymen have retired, in the meanwhile, without getting their proper seniority?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) None. All Seniority Committees were wound up in April, 1953.

(b) Rupees six lakhs approximately in all.

(c) to (e). Do not arise in view of the reply to (a). The staff who were in service on the date of integration and have retired already will have their seniority re-fixed in accordance with the orders for the purpose of confirmation.

RE-RAILING IN SOUTHERN RAILWAY

*1405. **Shri Frank Anthony:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Engineering Department of the Southern Railway have asked for permission to undertake the re-railing of extensive sections because they are a potential danger to the travelling public;

(b) whether these requests have been turned down by the Railway Board;

(c) whether because of the dangerous condition of the track, speed restrictions have been imposed on many sections of the Southern Railway; and

(d) whether it is a fact that in spite of these speed restrictions, drivers complain of rough riding and lurching on these tracks?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No such case has come to notice so far.

RAILWAY SERVICE COMMISSION

*1406. **Shri Frank Anthony:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Administration has received complaints of dissatisfaction among the staff on the score of irrelevant questions being asked by Selection Boards; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that the questions asked by selection boards are directed to ascertain the efficiency of the staff in their work and duties?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No specific complaints have been received though the hon. Member has made certain general allegations in the past.

(b) Instructions have been issued to railways laying down how much weightage should be given to the various factors influencing selections.

SHOLAPUR SOIL CONSERVATION RESEARCH STATION

*1407. **Shri Kanavade Patil:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any experiments are being carried on by the Sholapur Soil Conservation Research Station to

ascertain the percentage of soil-erosion in Sholapur District of Bombay State; and

(b) if so, what is the percentage of soil-erosion per acre, per annum?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 26.]

MARINE ENGINEERING COLLEGE, BEHALA

*1408. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Marine Engineering College has been opened recently at Behala, in Calcutta?

(b) If so, what are the subjects to be taught in this College?

(c) Is this College meant to impart training to officers only or can private individuals also be trained in this College?

(d) Are any foreign experts also working in this College?

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

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 27.]

(c) Admission to the College is open to all boys between the ages of 15½ and 19 years with the requisite educational qualifications.

(d) The Principal is the only foreign national employed in the College.

RAILWAY LAND

*1409. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the lands on either side of the Railway lines of the Grand Chord line from Asansol to Gaya, as also, of the feeder lines, are settled each year to prospective cultivators offering highest bids?

(b) If so, were all such lands settled this year before paddy cultivation and if not, why?

(c) Were certain lands not settled this year and if so, at which places and why?

(d) What was the bid amount fetched in 1951, 1952 and 1953?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The policy is to entrust all surplus cultivable railway lands to the State Governments for leasing out to cultivators and the responsibility of letting land to prospective cultivators rests entirely with them.

(b) and (c). Surplus Railway land in West Bengal has been handed over to the State Government. There has been some unavoidable delay in settlement of lands in Jharia coalfields area as all the surplus land has not been taken over by the Bihar Government in time.

	Rs.
(d) 1951	— 17,140/-
1952	— 26,298/8/-
1953	11,661/8/-

SUGARCANE WAX

*1410. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been carried out to see that sugarcane wax can be used for industrial purposes;

(b) if so, what are the findings; and

(c) the percentage of wax available from Indian cane stalk?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 28.]

SISIWA SUGAR MILLS

*1411. **Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to reply to unstarred question No. 231 asked on the 30th November, 1953 and state:

(a) what are the reasons for the abrupt fall in recovery in the Sisiwa