

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 68.]

CENTRAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
CUTTACK

***421. Shri Buchhikotaiah:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned a scheme for imparting practical instruction in scientific methods on different aspects of rice cultivation at the Central Rice Research Institute at Cuttack?

(b) If so, what are the results of these trainings?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Yes.

(b) The first experimental course of training is still in progress.

DECK PASSENGER WELFARE COMMITTEES

***424. Ch. Raghur Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government have formed Deck Passenger Welfare Committees?

(b) If so, who are its members?

(c) Are the Committees functioning and if so, have they made any recommendations?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). The Committees have not yet been set up. Their composition and membership are in the process of finalisation and steps to recruit Secretaries of the Committees are in hand.

COPPER WIRE CONTRACT FOR TUBE WELLS

***431. Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the firm to whom contract for the supply of copper wires

required for 2000 Tube Wells Scheme was given;

(b) the price per lb. and the quantity for which it was tendered; and

(c) the lowest ruling price of copper wires at that time in World markets?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) No contract has been awarded to any firm by the Govt. of India for the supply of copper wire under the 2,000 tubewells scheme. Governments of U. P., Bihar, Punjab and Pepsu have, however, placed orders with Messrs. Kamani Engineering Corporation Limited of Bombay and Messrs. National Screw and Wire Products Limited, of Calcutta, for their requirements of Copper conductors.

(b) 730 tons of solid copper conductors have been ordered with Kamani Engineering Corporation Limited at the rate of Rs. 2-7-3 per lb. F.O.R. Jaipur, and 969 tons of stranded copper conductors received against world Messrs. National Screw and Wire Products Limited at the rate of Rs. 2-5-5 per lb. F.O.R. Belur, by the four State Governments.

(c) The lowest rate for solid copper conductors received against world tenders was Rs. 2-5-6 per lb. from two Indian firms who were not approved manufacturers of copper wire. The quotations of foreign firms were much higher than the rates paid by the State Governments to the two firms mentioned earlier.

DECASUALIZATION OF RAILWAY PORTERS

***432. Shri Ramananda Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that under the decasualization of the Licensed Porters at Burdwan Junction of the Eastern Railways they have to pay more Licence fees to the Railways than what they used to pay previously to the contractors?

(b) Do Government propose to introduce the decasualization Schemes in other places also?

have been ordered with