

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 20)

IMPORT OF SUGAR

635. Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the probable cost of sugar proposed to be imported during the current year; and

(b) the period for which sugar would continue to be imported in the country?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The probable C. & F. cost of 6,90,000 tons of refined sugar proposed to be imported during the period April—December, 1954, is Rs. 35,42,53,000/-.

(b) As long as indigenous production of sugar is found insufficient to meet the internal requirements.

RAILWAYMEN INVOLVED IN RAIL-ACCIDENTS

636. Shri Sadhan Gupta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any railwaymen lost their lives recently due to accidents in the Alipurduar District of the Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the nature and causes of these accidents; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). At about 3-00 hours on 23rd August, 1954, when the Inspector of Works, Mal Junction and his Trolleyman was proceeding on a Light Engine over the Hathinala Bridge to inspect its safety, in view of abnormal floods in the river, the engine went down into

the river, due *prima facie* to the collapse of a pier of the Bridge under it. Except the Inspector of Works, who was found on 30th August, 1954, in an exhausted condition and is now in hospital, the other four are presumed to have died.

Alipurduar District is on the North Eastern Railway, not on the Eastern Railway as stated in the question.

(c) As this is an unusual occurrence, no specific action can be taken for the prevention of similar cases.

BREACHES IN ASSAM LINK

637. Shri Sadhan Gupta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places where there have been breaches in the new Assam Link line and in the railway lines in the Alipurduar District in North Eastern Railway;

(b) the number of cases in which there have been breaches in previous years also; and

(c) the steps that have been taken by Government to see that breaches in the line do not recur in future?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The number of places where there have been breaches to the new Assam Rail Link is 28 and the number in the lines in the Alipurduar Division of the North Eastern Railway is 51.

(b) Seven of the places breached in 1952 have again been breached this year.

(c) The steps to be taken by the Railway will be decided in the light of the recommendations of the Joint Committee of the State Authorities and the Railway on the measures necessary to avoid damages by floods.

TOURIST PUBLICITY

638. Mulla Abdullabhal: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the amount spent on Tourist publicity in (i) India and (ii) outside India in 1953-54?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Tourist Publicity material is generally produced in India and distributed both in India and abroad. Separate figures of expenditure are not at present maintained. The total expenditure during 1953-54 was Rs. 2,54,800/-.

BRIDGES IN ASSAM

639. Shri K. P. Tripathi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the new bridge on the river near Misamari Station in Assam has been completed; and

(b) if so, what is proposed to be done with the old bridge?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 98 per cent. work of construction of the new bridge has been completed.

(b) The old bridge is proposed to be dismantled as neither the Defence Department nor the Government of Assam are interested in the purchase of the old bridge for using it as a road bridge.

DRESS OF INDIAN AIRLINES HOSTESSES

**640. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that uniforms of hostesses of the Indian Air Lines are proposed to be standardized; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is being examined. No proposals have yet been formulated.

डी० टी० एस० के किराये

६४१. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली ट्रांसपोर्ट सर्विस की बसों के किराये में कमी की जा रही है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह कमी कब से होगी ?

LOUSHIPAT AREA

642. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage of land brought under cultivation in the Loushipat area (Manipur) during 1952-53 and 1953-54;

(b) the amount contributed by Government; and

(c) the revenue to be collected annually by Government from the reclaimed land?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). The required information is not available and has been called for from the State Government. It will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as received.

प्लेटफार्मों पर छत डालना

६४३. श्री जी० एल० चौधरी : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५३-५४ में उत्तर-पूर्व रेलवे के जिन प्लेटफार्मों पर छत डालने के कार्य के लिये मंजूरी दी गई थी उसमें क्या प्रगति हुई है; और

(ख) १९५२-५३ में जिन स्टेशनों के प्लेटफार्मों की छतें बनाने के लिये स्वीकृति