

(d) if so, by what time?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). There is traffic justification for the conversion of one of the existing mixed trains on the section into a purely passenger train. This can be done on receipt of the Engines on order for use on the section and other necessary stock.

(c) and (d). Acceleration will be possible with the use of the Diesel Engines on the section and the conversion of mixed trains into passenger trains, referred to above.

KANDLA-BHUJ RAILWAY LINE

771. Shri Dholakia: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of converting the 'narrow-gauge' line into 'metre-gauge' between Kandla and Bhuj has begun;

(b) if so, how long it will take to complete; and

(c) whether it is intended to construct a building for the Railway Station at Bhuj?

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

(b) It is expected to be completed during 1955-56.

(c) No, Sir.

BHUJ HOSPITAL

772. Shri Dholakia: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the applications for the post of a Surgeon for Bhuj Hospital have been invited; and

(b) if so, when the post is likely to be filled?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) The post of Surgeon

in Jubilee Hospital, Bhuj was advertised by the Union Public Service Commission, on 19th June 1954.

(b) The post will be filled up as soon as the recommendation of the Union Public Service Commission is received.

CITY BOOKING OFFICE AT GORAKHPUR

773. Shri H. S. Prasad: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand for opening a city Railway Booking Office at Gorakhpur;

(b) whether any such Booking Office was existing there in the past;

(c) if the answer to the part (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for its closure; and

(d) whether Government propose to open one now?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) There has been no such demand recently.

(b) Yes.

(c) The City Booking Office had to be closed as the facility was not adequately availed of by the public.

(d) No.

UNECONOMIC SUGAR FACTORIES

774. Shri H. S. Prasad: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give any facility to the uneconomic sugar factories for shifting to suitable sites; and

(b) if so, the nature of the facilities to be given?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) Besides providing facilities for the movement of machinery, etc., Government may grant some financial as-

sistance in the form of remission of Excise duty. Each case will be examined on its merits.

IMPORT OF SUGAR

775. Shri H. S. Prasad: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries from which sugar has been imported so far during 1954, month-wise;

(b) its landing cost including the excise duty etc.;

(c) the amount realized from its sale; and

(d) the saving made by Government in these transactions?

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

(a) A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 68.]

(b) The landed cost of 4.44 lakh tons sugar received upto 15th September, 1954 including import duty and the clearance and port trust charges is about Rs. 32.35 crores.

(c) and (d). The accounts have not yet been finalised. A saving of about Rs. 3.83 crores is, however, anticipated on the sale of 4.44 lakh tons.

अखिल भारतीय महिला खाद्य परिषद्

७७६. श्री सूर्य प्रसाद : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस वर्ष अब तक अखिल भारतीय महिला खाद्य परिषद् को कुल कितना अनुदान किया गया है ?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Out of the total grant of Rs. 1,50,000 promised for the year 1954-55, the Council has been paid so far a sum of Rs. 90,000 and sanction has been issued for the payment of a second instalment of Rs. 30,000.

DAMAGE BY FLOODS IN BIHAR

777. Shri L. N. Mishra: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loss sustained by the Indian Railways as a result of the floods in North Bihar;

(b) the nature of damage caused to it by the flood; and

(c) the steps taken so far to meet the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) This has not yet been assessed.

(b) The damages have been mainly in the nature of washing away of banks, scouring of approaches to bridges and damages to bridges themselves.

(c) All the breaches have since been repaired excepting those, between Murliganj and Budhma, Dauram Madhepura and Methai and between Miles 6/5 and 10/5 in Mansi-Supaul Sections. These are expected to be repaired within the next few days.

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO BIHAR

778. Shri L. N. Mishra: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give subsidised foodgrains to Bihar this year; and

(b) if so, the quantum of each variety of foodgrains given to Bihar so far after the 1st August, 1954 with the retail price of each?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). There is a scheme in operation under which, for the present, 10,000 tons of subsidized wheat would be supplied to Bihar Government for sale at the retail price of Rs. 12 per maund, and the Centre will also share