

(b) whether any time limit has been fixed within which it is to be completed;

(c) how far the work has progressed; and

(d) how much more time it is likely to take to be ready for the traffic?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) 27th May 1952.

(b) Yes.

(c) According to the information received on the 20th September 1954 from the Madhya Pradesh Government who are in charge of the construction of the bridge, the progress is 13 per cent.

(d) The State Government expect the bridge to be ready by the end of May 1956.

#### ABOLITION OF 'MAIL GUARD' SERVICE

**787. Shri M. D. Joshi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'Mail Guard' service of carrying postal mails by Ferry steamers along the Konkan Coast has been abolished;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether abolition of this service has resulted in considerable inconvenience to the public;

(d) the amount of money paid annually to the Bombay Steam Navigation Company for carrying postal mails prior to, and after the abolition of 'Mail Guard' service; and

(e) whether it is a fact that as a result of the abolition of this Service, Government stand to lose substantially?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) There are 5 steamer services on the Konkan coast. Except on the service between Bombay and Rewas, the system of

Mail Guards carrying the mails on other services has been abolished.

(b) In respect of two services i.e. between Bombay and Vengurla and Bombay and Dabhol, the Mail Guards were unnecessary as, according to the contract, the steamer company convey the mails on their own responsibility. In the case of two other services, viz. Bombay-Mora and Bombay-Nhava, the Steamer company did not want the mail contract as they had no passenger traffic on these lines.

(c) No. Alternative arrangements for conveying mails by road are made and these provide the same facilities as previously.

(d) Rs. 81,600 and Rs. 75,000 per annum respectively.

(e) No.

#### NEW RAILWAY LINES

**788. Shri M. D. Joshi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total mileage of new railway lines that will be constructed by the end of the current financial year;

(b) the number of new lines that were proposed to be taken in hand for construction; and

(c) the number among them that have been actually undertaken?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) 346 miles of new railway lines will have been opened to traffic since 1st April, 1951, the commencement of the Plan period.

(b) Two.

(c) One.

#### HARISHCHANDRAPUR RAILWAY STATION

**789. Shri S. M. Ghose:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial provision has been made during the current year for the construction of a

waiting room for Upper and Inter Class passengers at the Harishchandrapur Railway Station on the Kathar-Singbad line;

(b) if so, whether the construction has been taken in hand; and

(c) how long it will take to complete this work?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### TRAINS ON KATIHAR-SINGOBAD SECTION

**790. Shri S. M. Ghose:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the trains running on the Katihar-Singobad line do not run to time and that they do not have any inter and upper class compartments for the last few months;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to improve the position;

(c) whether any concessional return tickets would be issued on this line in connection with the Ramkeli Mela; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Concessional return tickets were issued at 1½ single journey fares from stations within a radius of 50 miles from Malda Court in connection with Ramkeli Mela in June, 1954.

(d) Does not arise.

#### SUGARCANE PRODUCTION

**791. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have launched a campaign

to step up sugarcane production in Northern India;

(b) if so, the nature of the campaign; and

(c) the target fixed for production?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshumkh):** (a) Yes.

(b) A campaign was launched by the Government of India for increasing the yield of sugarcane per acre in Northern India by applying fertilisers to the standing sugarcane crops during the monsoon period in an area of 2.2 lakh acres in the following States:

Uttar Pradesh	. 1,00,000	Acres.
Bihar	. 1,00,000	"
Punjab	. 20,000	"

23,100 maunds of ammonium sulphate have been made available for free distribution to selected cane growers in these States for demonstration purposes as under:

Uttar Pradesh	. 8,000	maunds.
Bihar	. 9,600	"
Punjab	. 5,500	"

2,100 maunds of fertilisers have also been supplied free to Madhya Bharat for demonstration purposes. 2.5 lakh maunds of fertilisers have been made available to the States of U.P., Punjab and Bihar on deferred payment basis.

Adequate publicity has been given to the campaign by issue of about a lakh copies of the pamphlets prepared in vernacular indicating clearly the methods of applying fertilisers to the crop and thereby increasing production of sugarcane.

(c) No target has been fixed. The additional yield on account of use of fertiliser to the standing crop is expected to average between 15 and 20 per cent.