

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The highest flood level of Aie River during 1952 and 1954 was 185.5 and 186.5, respectively;

(b) The breaches in the bank of railway line were closed and the upstream flank bund of the river, which was over-topped was raised and strengthened to prevent similar occurrences.

(c) The cost of temporary restoration is Rs. 6 lakhs and the estimated cost of permanent restoration is Rs. 11 lakhs.

(d) The work is in full swing and arrangements have been made to complete the work before the monsoon. The progress up-to-date is 10 per cent.

(e) Does not arise.

INDIAN SHIPPING

453. Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total tonnage of Indian shipping engaged in coastal shipping (company-wise);

(b) the total increase in this tonnage during the last three years;

(c) whether it is considered sufficient to cope with the needs of the coastal trade and if not, the extent of increase needed; and

(d) what steps are being taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A statement giving the required information is appended. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 62].

(b) 54,418 gross registered tons.

(c) and (d). As will be seen from the statement appended, the tonnage at present employed in the coastal trade is 2,67,662 GRT. It is considered that a tonnage of about three lakhs GRT which is envisaged under

the Five Year Plan will be sufficient to cater to the current normal requirements of the coastal trade. Loans are being granted to the Indian Shipping Companies for acquisition of tonnage to reach the Plan target.

PAY OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

454. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the period of training, duties performed and responsibilities borne by Assistant Station Masters and Station Masters are greater than those of Guards; and

(b) if so, whether the scales of pay of both these categories are commensurate with the duties they perform?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) As the spheres of work of the two categories are independent, no definite comparison between their duties etc. is possible.

(b) Yes.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

455. Pandit M. B. Bhargava: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Service records of the ex-Western Railway Wireless Operating Staff now working on the Northern Railway are still incomplete in several respects; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to complete the same?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Service records pertaining to these Wireless Operating Staff did not contain complete information and the matter is under correspondence between the Northern and Western Railways. These will be completed as soon as necessary data is available.