

the extensive damages caused to canals in India and Pakistan on account of unprecedented floods in October, 1955; and

(b) if so, what are their recommendations?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). It is not in public interest to disclose the information.

Ahmedabad Railway Station

*1333. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that looking to the growing needs of Ahmedabad the question of remodelling Ahmedabad Yard is under the active consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The proposals envisages shifting of the M.G. passenger platforms and yard to the east of the existing B.G. station and provision of 7 passenger platform faces, a small M.G. station building, M.G. parcel office with platform and subway for passengers and parcels from M.G. to B.G. at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.5 crores.

Imported Coal at Madras Port

*1335. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bulk of the imported coal in the Madras Port is for the Railways;

(b) whether the fact that the Chief Operating Superintendent, Southern Railway has accepted the lowest tender for labour contract to carry coal in the Madras Harbour is the reason for the low wages paid by the contractors to the workers in the harbour;

(c) what are the rates of wages of labour agreed upon by the C.O.P.S. with the Coal Contractor in the harbour;

(d) what rates of wages are given by the above contractor to the labour in the harbour;

(e) whether it is a fact that there is much discontentment due to the very low wages; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation?

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

(b) The C.O.P.S., accepted the lowest tender according to the standard procedure. It is not known whether the acceptance of the lowest tender was the cause of low wages to workers in the Harbour.

(c) The C.O.P.S., only accepts the contract rates for handling sea-borne coal. The contractor has to pay his labour day-to-day wages at the prevailing local rates or at such higher rates as may be agreed upon between the employer and the labour.

(d) A statement showing the rates at which the contractor receives payment from the Railway for handling coal at Madras Port and the rates at which he pays the coal labour is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 46].

(e) and (f). The position is being ascertained.

Import of Heavy Machinery

*1336. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the amount of foreign exchange earmarked by the Planning Commission under the Second Five Year Plan for importing heavy machinery?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): In the Report on the Second Five Year Plan, it is stated that machinery and vehicles of about Rs. 1500 crores would be imported during the Plan period. Of this, the bulk will consist of heavy machinery and transport equipment (including vehicles).

Training of Indian Personnel in Russia

*1346. **Shri Shivananjappa:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Central Co-operative Consumers' Organization of Russia has offered to provide facilities for training Indian personnel?

The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): The President of the Central Cooperative Consumers' Organisation of Russia had, in the course of a talk with the Indian Cooperative Delegation to Russia, expressed his willingness to consider the training of Indians in the Cooperative Training Institutions in the U.S.S.R. No formal offer has yet been received.

Nagarjunaagar Project

*1350. **Shri C. R. Chowdary:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any alteration in length of the right-side canal of Nagarjunaagar Project has been made;