

(b) whether Government have taken into consideration the necessity of putting up this level to cross the lines ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) and (b). At the instance of the Anantapur Municipality, it was originally decided to provide a 12 ft. manned level crossing on the Northern side of Anantapur Railway Station. The Municipality agreed to bear the initial cost of the above proposal but declined to bear the annual maintenance charges thereof.

Meanwhile, the proposal had to be revised.

The Municipality had been advised to convey their acceptance of the revised charges in August '56 but their reply has not been received so far.

Sale of the "Current" at Railway Bookstalls

1204. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Relation Officer of South Eastern Railway recently issued instructions to Wheelers' Railway Bookstalls not to sell the 'Current', a Bombay Weekly News Magazine;

(b) if so, when and on what grounds;

(c) whether he subsequently revoked the said instructions; and

(d) if so, when and in what circumstances ?

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

(b) and (d). The instructions under reference were issued by the Public Relations Officer on 6-9-56 due to misunderstanding, and these instructions were cancelled by him on 24-9-56 when the correct position was appreciated.

Railway Connection from Ichal-Karanji to Kolhapur-Miraj Line

1205. Shri Kajrolkar : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether a representation has been received by Government from the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Poona, requesting to connect Ichal-Karanji instead of Hathkanangale to the broad-gauge line to be laid between Kolhapur and Miraj on account of the industrial and commercial importance of Ichal-Karanji; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

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

(b) An estimate for Preliminary Engineering and Traffic Surveys for conversion of Kolhapur Miraj M.G. section into B.G. has been called for from the Central Railway. The question of connecting Ichal-Karanji instead of Hathkanangale has been noted for consideration during the survey.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Officers on Railways

1206. Shri Kajrolkar : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing the number of officers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Class I and Class II Services in the Railways at present ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 72.]

Foodgrains

1208. Sardar Akarpuri : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) the normal offtake of foodgrains from Government stocks, State-wise during the last one year;

(b) whether there is any indication of anti-social activities by the traders in respect of the foodgrains sold by Government; and

(c) if so, whether there are any checks ?

The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa) : (a) A statement is placed on the table of Lok Sabha showing the quantities of foodgrains issued from Government stocks in each State during the period from 1st December, 1955 to 30th November, 1956. [See Appendix, V, annexure No. 73].

(b) and (c). Some reports about leakage of Government foodgrains from fair price shops have been received and the State Governments have been requested to keep strict watch on the functioning of these shops and arrange for their frequent inspection so as to ensure that foodgrains issued from Government stocks reach the consumers at prescribed prices.

Mail Trains to Bhopal

1209. Shri A. C. Joshi : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to

state, whether in view of the formation of the new State of Madhya Pradesh Government would consider the feasibility of running two mail trains direct upto Bhopal, one from Manikpur *via* Satna and the other from Bilaspur *via* Shahdol Katni and linking other distant parts of Madhya Pradesh to Bhopal generally by running through trains ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : It is not feasible to introduce two mail trains direct upto Bhopal, one from Manikpur *via* Satna and the other from Bilaspur *via* Katni due to paucity of coaching stock and locomotives and inadequate line capacity between Katni and Manikpur and Katni and Bilaspur.

Railway Booking Agencies in Delhi

1210. Shri Velayudhan : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of city booking agencies in Delhi;

(b) who are the agents that have taken their agencies;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Delhi-Subzimandi Booking Agency is given to a single person for years together; and

(d) what is the difficulty in taking it over by Government itself ?

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

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 74]

(c) The contract for the Delhi-Subzimandi City Booking Agency has been held by M/s. Ramlal Jaggi & Sons since 1-12-53, the date of its opening.

(d) No necessity has arisen to consider the question of taking over this agency for departmental working.

Improvement of Stations on Katni-Bilaspur Line

1211. Shri A. C. Joshi : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are taking or propose to take appropriate steps to improve the Railway Station Buildings and Railway platforms at Chandia, Umaria Birsingpur, Shahdol, Burhar, Anuppur in Katni Bilaspur line of the Eastern Railway ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : These stations are on the South Eastern

Railway. There is no proposal for improvement of station buildings and platforms at these stations except at Shahdol where provision for separate rooms for station master and booking and parcel office is under consideration. Umaria and Chandia Road stations are already provided with high level platforms.

Flood Relief Measures in Delhi

1212. Shri Kamath : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the Statement laid on the Table in answer to Starred Question No. 1020 on the 11th December, 1956 and state;

(a) why the statement is blank with regard to relief measures taken in Delhi State;

(b) whether any measures have since been taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa) : (a) to (c). The Delhi Administration had not then furnished the necessary information. The requisite information has since been obtained and is as under :—

Financial assistance Nature of relief measure

(i) Rs. 25,000/- Evacuation of persons and cattle from the marooned areas and other relief operations.

(ii) Rs. 4,00,000/- Loans given for fodder and seed taccavi.

In addition recovery of Taccavi Loan to the extent of Rs. 2 lakhs has been deferred.

Foodgrain Prices

1213. Shri Kamath : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in early September, 1956 he confidently forecast in Parliament an appreciable fall in foodgrain prices within a fortnight or so;

(b) whether this has not proved to be so; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa) : (a) to (c). The prices did record a fall in September, but unfortunately exceptionally heavy floods in that month caused considerable damage to crops and reversed the downward trend of prices. The deterioration