

Public Telephones at Stations

155. Shri Kamath : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 451 on 7th August, 1956, and state the further progress made in the direction of providing public telephones at Narsinghpur and Kareli stations on the Central Railway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The public telephones at Narsinghpur and Kareli stations have not been installed as public exchanges have not yet been opened by the Posts & Telegraphs Department. It is understood that the schemes for providing exchanges at the above named stations have been sanctioned and it will take about 5 months to open the exchanges if the necessary materials are received in time. A firm demand for providing the telephones at Narsinghpur and Kareli railway stations from these exchanges is being placed on the P. & T. Department.

Bridge over Narmada

156. Shri Kamath: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 450 on the 7th August, 1956, and state at what stage the matter of construction of the bridge on the Narmada river at Hoshangabad rests?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): An outline design for the bridge has already been sent to the State Government who are now preparing the detailed design and estimates.

Indian Agricultural Research Institute

157. Shri Achalu: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what pay and allowances monthly men are entitled to every month in the Indian Agricultural Research Institute; and

(b) from which date the present pay and allowances are being paid to them?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). The monthly men of the I. A. R. I., New Delhi, are paid at the rate of Rs. 30/- (fixed) per month as wages plus Rs. 40/- D.A. and Rs. 3/- C.A. with effect from 1st April 1948.

Indian Agricultural Research Institute

158. Shri Achalu: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of monthly men in the Indian Agricultural Research Ins-

titute who have put in more than 10 years service;

(b) the number of monthly men who have put in more than 5 years but less than 10 years of service;

(c) the number of monthly men who have put in service between 2 to 5 years; and

(d) the number of monthly men who have put in less than 2 years of service?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) 27.

(b) 35.

(c) 12.

(d) 3.

Indian Agricultural Research Institute

159. Shri Achalu: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute are entitled to any medical facilities; and

(b) if so, what medical facilities are provided to them?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). Presumably information sought is in respect of 'Monthly-men and daily-paid agricultural workers' engaged by the Institute. These workers are not regular Government employees and as such are not entitled to any medical facilities under the Contributory Health Service Scheme. They, however, get free medical treatment from the Dispensary attached to the Institute which is open for all workers and employees of the Institute.

Steamer Workers' Strike at Gauhati

160. Shri P. C. Bose: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steamer workers at Gauhati and other places have gone on strike from the 27th September, 1956;

(b) the cause of the strike; and

(c) the number of steamers and workers involved in the strike?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The crew of steamers at Gauhati went on a strike from 22nd September, 1956. The strike was called off on 16th October, 1956.

(b) The cause of the strike was the arrest of 13 members of the crew of 'S.S. Alampur' a steamer belonging to the Joint Steamer Companies, by the police, under section 63 of Inland Steam Vessels Act, 1917, on a complaint from the master of the vessel.

(c) According to information available the number of vessels and workers involved was 40 and 530 respectively.