

ance to Andhra State for improvement of Bimlipatam Jute, it was not possible for them to give any separate financial assistance to the Srikakulam Jute Market Committee in Andhra State.

### Railway Porters

**903. Shri Radhamohan Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any change in the scheme of Railway porters (i) engaged for Railway work and (ii) passengers work;

(b) the nature of system for porters at present in vogue;

(c) whether those engaged in Railway work are treated as Railway employees;

(d) if not, why;

(e) whether the Railway Porters have formed their own co-operatives for mutual benefit and better service and discipline;

(f) if so, at what places; and

(g) whether Government render any help or encouragement to these Co-operatives?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). The porters licensed for carrying passengers' luggage were previously licensed through contractors at many stations. They are now directly licensed by the Administration at most stations.

At the remaining stations also the direct licensing of porters is proposed to be introduced.

At certain stations these porters previously employed under the contractors were doing also part-time railway work, i.e. handling of parcels, booked luggage, etc. Now they are generally required to do only the passengers' work, the railway work being done generally through contractors employing separate labour. Where the licensed porters do any railway work on a part time basis

they are paid at the rates prescribed for the purpose.

(c) and (d). No, as they are mainly employed on a work i.e. carrying of passengers' luggage, which is not the direct responsibility of the Railway.

(e) and (f). Such societies are known to have been formed at Lucknow Cantt. and Lucknow Charbagh stations of the Northern and the North-Eastern Railways, respectively.

(g) Although these societies are not recognised by the Railway Administration, not being unions of railway employees, any representations put forward by them are looked into.

### Hill Allowance

**904. Shri Jadhav:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether hill allowance was being given to the Railway personnel at Igatpuri proper to the year 1956;

(b) if so, whether it is being continued; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the matter of grant of Hill Allowance, the classification of the State Government is followed. Igatpuri has not been classified by the State Government as a Hill Station for the purpose of grant of compensatory allowance, nor are the State Government giving any Hill Allowance to their staff stationed at Igatpuri.

### Agartala Municipality

**905. Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the major items of reconstruction programme proposed to be undertaken by Agartala Municipality during 1957-58;

(b) the total amount expected to be spent on each item; and