

(c) whether by changing to day train a delay of 24 hours can be avoided; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) It is not a fact that mails from Anantapur to Hyderabad are sent only by the night train. Both the day and night train services are utilised. Letters, postcards and surcharged book-packets etc. are also transmitted after the departure of the afternoon train by the night train to Bangalore, whence they are given air-lift the next morning to Hyderabad, thereby ensuring their delivery on the afternoon of the day following the day of posting.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Travel Agents

1509. Shri Yajnik: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Travel Agents and agencies appointed by the Ministry to sell tickets to the public;

(b) whether any security deposits are taken from all the Travel Agents and whether there are any who have not furnished the necessary security;

(c) whether any Travel Agents have failed to pay the sale money of the tickets by due dates; and

(d) the amount left as arrears in the amount payable by the Travel Agents?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawas Khan): (a) 21.

(b) Security deposit has been obtained from all Travel Agents.

(c) Yes.

(d) Necessary information is being obtained and will be laid on the table of the House.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था

१५१०. श्री पद्म देव : क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि स्वास्थ्य विभाग द्वारा हिमाचल प्रदेश के जिला महासु में कुई, भडाल, करारा और बसला (तहसील रोड़) और बाहली सिंगला (तहसील रामपुर) में पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था करने की कई योजनायें बहुत पहले में स्वीकृत हो चुकी हैं ;

(ख) क्या इन योजनाओं को चलाने के लिये पाइपों की भी व्यवस्था की जा चुकी है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इन योजनाओं की कार्यान्विति में देरी के क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) ये योजनायें कब तक पूरी हो जायेंगी ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (श्री कर्मरकर) : (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और मलबे पर सभा की मेज पर रख दी जायगी ।

Opening of Hotels

**1511. { Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Padam Dev:**

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage the opening of hotels for the development of internal tourism; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for the purpose?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) As recommended by the Estimates Committee the Government of India have already approached the State Bank of India and the Life Insurance Corporation of India to consider requests for grant of loans to

hoteliers on easy terms. Further, as a result of the Industrial Finance Corporation amendment Act 1957, recently passed by this house, hotels have been given recognition as an industry within the meaning of Section 2 of Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948 thereby making them eligible for grant of loans by the Corporation. Apart from this, requests from hotels for building materials like cement and steel are sympathetically considered subject of course to the prior claims of other projects of national importance.

Conference of State Transport Undertakings

1512. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the main decisions taken at the Conference of State Transport Undertakings held in October, 1957, at Chandigarh?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri**): The proceedings of the Conference are under preparation and copies thereof will be placed on the Table of the House very shortly.

Sale or Auction of Rice and other Cereals

1513. **Shri Jadhav:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the stock of rice, paddy and other cereals sold or auctioned from the Central Godowns in the years 1956 and 1957 so far;

(b) the reasons for the sale or auction; and

(c) the rate of sale or auction of different types of cereals?

The Minister of Cooperation (**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh**): (a) 1956

Rice 8.1 lakh tons

Wheat 11.4 lakh tons

1957

(upto November)

Rice 6.9 lakh tons

Wheat 21.3 lakh tons

(b) The sales of rice and wheat through Fair Price Shops were made to help the consumers to get food-grains at reasonable prices. The sales through auctions and tenders related to the disposal of stocks which could not stand further storage.

(c) (i) Rate of sale from Central Government Godowns:

Rice-Coarse. Rs. 16 per maund.

" Fine Rs. 20 per maund.

Paddy (Superfine) Rs. 11 per maund.

Wheat Rs. 14 per maund.

(ii) Rate of sale through auction and tender.

Rice. Rs. 8.00 to Rs. 26.27 np. per maund.

Paddy Rs. 7.00 to Rs. 12.00 np. per maund

Railway Porters

1514 **Shri Jadhav:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what is the licence fee charged from the licenced porters;

(b) whether it is a fact that they are not treated as railway employees,

(c) if so, the reasons why they are compelled to work for the Railways;

(d) the rate of payment given to them per hour when they work for the Railways;

(e) whether it is a fact that they are charged licence fees even though they are on leave;

(f) whether there are any Rules for punishing the porters and for the withdrawal of their badges; and

(g) whether it is a fact that these porters are compelled by the Railway Police to be witnesses in Railway cases even though they are not in the know of the facts?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan**): (a) A licence fee is charged from licenced porters at those stations only where a supervisory organisation considered necessary for managing their work is set up and uniforms are also supplied