

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Investigations of the proposal are in progress.

(b) No decision about the work can be taken until the surveys are completed and the reports examined.

P. & T. Employees

35. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees Class I, II, III and IV in Post and Telegraph Department as on the 31st March, 1957; and

(b) the monthly wage bill of each category of employees?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A statement giving the required information is given below.

(b) The information regarding the Pay and Allowances drawn for each category of employees for March 1957 is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

STATEMENT

Statistics of Strength of Staff as on 31-3-57

Classes	Total number as on 31-3-57
Class I.	398
Class II.	992
Class III	155,611
Class IV.	52,138
E.D. Class III.	51,185
E.D. Class IV	41,474
Grant Total	301,798

Railway Employees

36. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total number of employees class, I, II, III and IV employed under various zones of Railways in India as on the 31st March, 1957?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 30.]

Lembuchara Agricultural Farm

37. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of seeds produced in Lembuchara Agricultural Farm during 1955-56 and 1956-57;

(b) whether the yield is small as compared with the cost incurred per acre of land cultivated; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to improve the management of the farm?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Total amount of seeds produced at the Lembuchara Agricultural farm is as indicated below:—

	1955-56	1956-57
Paddy	209Mds. 78rs.	167Mds. 35rs.
ute	2Mds. 36rs.	6Mds. 8rs.
Sugarcane	32,743 sets.	42,175 sets.

(b) The cost of production is rather high due to the following reasons:—

(i) Cultivation is undertaken on an experimental basis;

(ii) enforcement of Minimum Wages Act; and

(iii) thorough weeding for maintaining the purity of the seeds.

(c) Every effort is being made to keep the expenditure as low as possible at the farm and to run it efficiently.

Opening of New Telegraph Offices

38. Shri Poeker Sahib: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received from the public of

Ernakulam (Kerala State) for opening of more telegraph offices in the town; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Representations have been received for providing telegraph facilities at (1) Karithala and (2) Ernakulam High Court Post Offices. Proposal (1) has been sanctioned. The second one will be sanctioned, if found justified.

Central Cocomnut Committee

39. Shri Pocker Sahib: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the number of appointments of officers made by Government to the Central Cocomnut Committee during the last five years?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha as soon as it becomes available.

High Level Committee on Floods

40. Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1437 on the 3rd September, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the High Level Committee on Floods have finished their work and have submitted their report to Government;

(b) whether it has been possible for the High Level Flood Committee to obtain a copy of the Report of Committee of Experts appointed by the West Bengal Government last year to investigate into the causes of the Mayurakshi floods in 1956; and

(c) whether the High Level Committee has considered that Report?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) Not yet.

(b) The report has not yet been received by the Committee from the West Bengal Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Cochin Harbour Administration

41. Shri Pocker Sahib: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the number of appointments made in the Cochin Harbour Administrative Departments in the last 5 years?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): 330

Community Block Advisory Committees

42. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:

Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether Community Block Advisory Committees have been formed and are functioning; and

(b) if so, their constitution and functions?

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) Yes.

(b) Constitution: In addition to the principal officials serving in the Block area, the Block Advisory Committee consists of:—

(1) Local Members of Parliament.

(2) Local Members of State Assembly.

(3) Local Members of District Board or other similar local authority.

(4) Representatives from the Village Panchayats in the area.

(5) Representatives from the multipurpose Co-operative Societies in the area.