

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). So far as Government are aware, no new shipping company has yet been established with headquarters in Bombay to operate a shipping service on the West coast of India. It is, however, understood that M/s. Bombay Mariners Private Ltd. proposed to float a new shipping company, to be called Victory Steam Navigation Company Ltd., with an authorized capital of Rs. 5 crores for operation in the coastal trade and that Shri J. M. Akahaney, Managing Director of the Bombay Mariners Private Ltd., is understood to be the chief sponsor of the new company.

Arrival of Trains at Delhi

951. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of trains arriving at Delhi at the scheduled time during each of the last 3 months; and

(b) the number of times the Ajmer Express arrived at Delhi in time during the same period?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The percentage of trains arriving Delhi Junction right time during November, 1957, to January, 1958, is as under:

November '57	67%
December '57	63%
January '58	65%

(b) There is no Ajmer express train. Presumably the train referred to is No. 14 Ajmer-Delhi Passenger train. This train arrived Delhi right time on 34 occasions during the period in question.

Requisitioning of Foodgrains

952. Shri Ball Reddy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains requisitioned after the Essential Com-

modities (Amendment) Act, 1957 had been passed;

(b) how much was requisitioned from Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the prices paid for each variety and commodity; and

(d) the basis on which these prices were determined?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) The quantities of foodgrains requisitioned by or on behalf of the Government of India are as follows:—

Rice	Approximately 1,06,000 tons.
Gram	Approximately 16,000 tons.

(b) About 99,400 tons of rice.

(c) A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 72]

(d) In the absence of an agreed or controlled price, the prices were fixed with reference to the average of the prices for three preceding months, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3(3A) of the Act. The prices of rice requisitioned subsequent to the introduction of control prices were fixed with reference to the control prices in force from time to time.

Concession in Railway Freights

953. Shri R. L. Reddy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exporters of betel leaves, plantain leaves etc. from Andhra Pradesh to other States in the Indian Union are put to heavy loss because they are not allowed concession in railway freight charges as in the case of fruits and vegetables;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to mitigate their loss; and

(c) whether Government propose giving the exporters of betel leaves and plantain leaves the same conces-

sion in freight charges as is being allowed in the case of perishable articles like fruits and vegetables?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan) (a) Government have no information whether exporters of betel leaves, plantain leaves, etc from Andhra Pradesh to other States in the Indian Union are put to heavy loss and the loss, if any, is because lower freight charges are not levied in the case of these commodities, as for fruits and vegetables

(b) Does not arise

(c) No such proposal is under consideration

Level Crossing at Gudur Railway Station

954 Shri R. L. Reddy Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the vehicular traffic is held up at the North level crossing of Gudur Railway Station Southern Railway due to shunting operations and train formations and

(b) if so what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan) (a) Yes Sir there is a certain amount of hold up of road traffic at this level crossing which lies at mile 84/20-21 at the north end of Gudur Station Yard

(b) With a view to relieve the congestion a proposal to construct a road over-bridge is under investigation in consultation with the State Government

Fishing

955. Shri Panigrahi Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether Government is aware that fishing vessels of West Bengal Government are violating the fishing rights of the Orissa State Government by fishing in the seacoast of

Orissa near Astarang area in the district of Puri, and

(b) whether the State Government of Orissa has drawn the attention of the Union Government to this effect?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b) The attention of the Government of India was drawn through a copy of the letter which the Orissa Government had addressed to the West Bengal Government on the subject Government of India are making enquiries from the West Bengal Government but have not received any final reply

The matter was however, discussed in the meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council at Patna on 23rd January 1958 The question was whether Orissa had any legal right to lease out fishery rights in the sea coast and if so up to what limit It was suggested by the Chairman (Union Home Minister) that the matter might be discussed between the Governments of Orissa and West Bengal

Foreign Shipping Trade

956 Shri M. Elias Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) what percentage of the foreign shipping trade is controlled by foreign controlled firms

(b) how many shipping agent firms are Indian controlled,

(c) how many foreign controlled shipping lines touch Indian ports every year,

(d) how many British controlled freight brokers are there in Calcutta at present and

(e) how do they really help the business?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) It is presumed that the Member wants to know the share of the foreign ship-