

Wooden Sleepers for Railways

3051. { Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Yajnik:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of wooden sleepers imported for Railways from foreign countries during the last two years?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): 1956-57—Nil 1957-58—1,15,751.

Staff of North-Eastern Railway

3052. Shri Ghosal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the staff of North-Eastern Railway Office at Calcutta were given any option and facility for joining the North-Eastern Frontier Railway zone services; and

(b) if not, why not?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawas Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

Wangbal Farm in Manipur

3053. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wangbal Farm in Manipur is being converted into an experimental farm;

(b) if so, whether any of the cropping schemes are being abandoned; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (c). The information has been called for from the Manipur Administration and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it is available.

Dairy Farm at Lamphel in Manipur

3054. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Farm at Lamphel in Manipur has started a Dairy Farm; and

(b) if so, the progress achieved so far?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). The information has been called for from the Manipur Administration and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it is available.

Dairy Schemes

3055. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the progress so far made in implementing the dairy schemes, for which assistance is being received from New Zealand under the Colombo Plan?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): A statement showing the progress in respect of the dairy schemes for which assistance is being received from New Zealand Government under the Colombo Plan is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 77.]

Looting of Goods Trains

3056. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of goods trains that have been looted on the Eastern and North-Eastern Frontier Railways so far since the beginning of the year 1958;

(b) the value of goods looted on the two Railways during the same period;

(c) whether any of the persons involved in those lootings have been arrested; and

(d) if so, how many?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawas Khan): (a) Eastern—Nil.

N.-E.F.—1.

(b) Eastern—Does not arise.

N.E.F.—Approximately Rs. 14,000.

(c) Eastern—Does not arise.

N.E.F.—Yes, by the State Police.

(d) Eastern—Does not arise.

N.E.F.—Exact number not available.

Note.—Particulars of occurrences in the jurisdiction of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh Police on the Eastern Railway are still awaited from the police authorities.

12 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

DEATHS DUE TO FOOD-POISONING AT SASTHAMKOTTA

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Shri Uttamrao L. Patil on the following subject:

"The grim food-poisoning tragedy at Sasthamkotta in Quilon District, resulting in the death of sixty-four trainees of the Lok Sahayak Sena Camp."

An Hon. Member: It is seventy-four.

Mr. Speaker: Yes; I think this is wrong. It is seventy-four. It is a very serious matter.

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): I admit it is a very serious happening and we are collecting information about this incident. So, I would request you to give a little more time and during the course of the day, possibly before lunch time, the Minister will be making a fuller statement on this incident according to the information that will be available to us.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): 74 people have died on account of food-poisoning and the Ministry has not got information till now!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Deputy Minister has just said that the senior Minister himself will make a full statement during the course of the day. Therefore, I am thinking of putting it off till tomorrow. We may not have time today.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Sasaram): Such incidents have occurred at three or four more places also. May I know whether the Government are aware of the occurrence of such incidents

and after the first incident occurred, why no precautionary step was taken either by the Defence Ministry or any other Ministry to check and put a stop to such incidents?

Sardar Majithia: So far as the other incidents are concerned, I do not think they were pertaining to the Lok Sahayak Sena. If it takes place in the country anywhere, it is a different matter.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It all happened in Kerala.

Mr. Speaker: This shall stand over till tomorrow.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Why don't they take the necessary precaution so that such incidents may not happen?

Mr. Speaker: This will be taken up tomorrow. The hon. Minister will make a full statement.

Sardar Majithia: But I was thinking that the House was very keen and we are trying our best to collect the information as soon as possible. The Minister possibly is already in touch with the people over there and he would be making a statement during the course of the day possibly before lunch, if it meets with your approval.

Shri Supakar (Sambalpur): There were a few short-notice questions also, which may be put off till tomorrow for answering, on this particular subject.

Mr. Speaker: I think it will be better—if the hon. Minister is going to be here tomorrow—that I call him immediately after the Question Hour.

Sardar Majithia: As you please.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): I suggest that since the matter is of such grave concern to everybody in the House, if any information is available during the course of the day, it should be made known to us.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. The hon. Minister will make a statement at any time during the day. Therefore, consent is not given to this adjournment motion.