

Fair Price Shops in Bihar

599. **Shri Anirudh Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fair price shops opened upto 31st July, 1958 in the different scarcity hit districts of Bihar, district-wise;

(b) the quantity of different kinds of foodgrains released for sale through the fair price shops and the rates thereof upto the 31st July, 1958; and

(c) the position of the stock of foodgrains as on the 31st July, 1958?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) A statement showing the district-wise break up of fair price shops functioning in Bihar on 23rd July, 1958 is attached. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 65.]

(b) The following quantities of foodgrains were released through fair price shops in Bihar from 1st January to 23rd July, 1958:—

	In Thousand Tons
Rice	1.2
Wheat	400.1
Gram	6.7
TOTAL	408.0

The whole-sale issue rates for rice, wheat & gram have been Rs. 17/10/-, Rs. 14/- and Rs. 12/- per maund inclusive of bags.

(c) The stock position (with the Bihar Government) as on 23rd July, 1958 was as follows:—

Rice	5,926 tons.
Wheat	54,672 tons.
Gram	296 tons.

Irrigation Projects

590. **Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several works under the Central Irrigation 129LSD—3.

Projects in the First and Second Five Year Plans have been and are being given on contract basis;

(b) if so, the total number of contracts involving each an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs and above given in these projects during 1951-56 and upto 31st December, 1957; and

(c) the amount contracted in each such case?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim):

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement is attached. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 66.]

Railway Accidents at Sealdah and Ranaghat

591. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two railway accidents at Sealdah and Ranaghat in Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway occurred on the 9th July 1958 resulting in the death of one railway employee and ten men including five passengers; and

(b) if so, the cause of the accidents?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). On 9-7-58 two accidents occurred one at Sealdah and the other at Ranaghat stations.

In the former case the Empty rake of 17 Up (Sealdah-Delhi Express) while being backed on to the platform No. 5 of Sealdah station, its second coach from the Engine got derailed. There were no casualties.

The derailment was due to some minor defects in the Track and the loose cinder packing wheel was sodden on account of heavy rain on the previous night, contributed by the sudden change in speed of the shunting Engine backing the Empty Rake.

In the second case, the train engine of S356 Down Ranaghat-Sealdah