

Phagwara to Chandigarh and vice versa are transmitted at present at Jullundur.

Extension of Service of Railway Employees

*620. Shri Vajpayee: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Railway employees who have been granted extension in service after 55 years of age during 1958-59 so far,

(b) whether Government have received representations from other employees against this extension, and

(c) if so, the reactions of Government thereto?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawas Khan): (a) The total number of Railway employees on extension of service as on 1-10-1958, was 25

(b) Yes

(c) Extension is only given where it is inescapable

Locusts

*621 { Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Anirudh Sinha:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three swarms of locusts have entered Pakistan and there is an apprehension of their invading India; and

(b) if so, nature of the anti-locust measures taken in view of the impending danger of invasion of locusts?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Infiltration of locust swarms is mainly through the Rajasthan desert. All the 28 outposts set up over the desert area under the Central Locust Warning Organisation and the States adjoining such desert areas, have been alerted to take control measures if the locust swarms enter India.

These outposts are fully equipped with modern equipments and pesticides. Wireless sets, which have already been installed in the various strategic points, would also be used for locust intelligence and to maintain close liaison for control operations. Two aeroplanes have also been kept in readiness for undertaking aerial operations, if required.

Late Running of Trains

735. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times during 1958 when Express, Mail and Passenger trains on metre gauge section of Northern Railway ran late,

(b) the total time in hours lost,

(c) the reasons for such irregularities; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawas Khan): (a) Mail/Express and Important through trains— 927 hours
Passenger trains (including mixed)— 3256 hours
TOTAL 4183

(b) Mail/Express and important through trains— 683 hours
Passenger trains (including mixed)— 2883 hours
TOTAL 3566 hours

(c) and (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No 29]

Family Planning Clinics

736. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1361 on the 12th December, 1958 and state the total amount of grants given to Voluntary Organisations during 1958-59 so far for the opening or maintenance of family planning clinics in rural areas (State-wise)?