

(c) The increase is due to the increase in the cost of groundnut oil, its main raw material.

Shahganj-Mau Section

1287. **Shri Kalika Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1170 on the 9th December, 1958 and state:

(a) whether re-laying of the existing 41½ lbs. rails with 60 lbs. 'R' rails on existing sleepers on the Shahganj-Mau Section of the Northern Railway has been included in the 1959-60 works programme;

(b) how old are these existing rails;

(c) whether re-laying will make it possible for running fast trains from Shahganj to Katihar and onwards; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to convert Mau-Shahganj line into B.G. line or for making it a multiple track?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir. It is included in the North Eastern Railway's Works Programmes for 1959-60.

(b) About 50 years.

(c) Re-laying will allow higher speeds of trains on Shahganj-Mau Section. The section Mau to Katihar and onwards is already laid with heavier rails and can allow running of fast trains.

(d) No.

Wooden Sleepers

1288. **Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wooden sleepers purchased from Assam during 1958-59; and

(b) the value of the sleepers?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) 3.73 lakhs (Nos.).

(b) Rs. 44.33 lakhs.

Cheque System in Post Offices in Delhi

1289. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Post Offices in Delhi where cheque system has been introduced so far; and

(b) the number of post offices where cheque system is proposed to be introduced during the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) 118.

(b) The cheque system remains to be introduced only at two post offices opened recently.

Raising of Platforms

1290. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to raise the level of platforms of some stations on the Pathankot-Jullundur section of Northern Railway;

(b) if so, the names of such stations; and

(c) when the work will start?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Pathankot Station

1291. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of incoming and outgoing passengers at the Pathankot Station, Northern Railway, in 1958-59?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): The number of incoming and outgoing passen-

gers at Pathankot station in 1958-59 was 12,92,699 and 12,26,982 respectively.

T.B. Isolation Beds in Punjab

1292. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have drawn any amount so far from Rs. 70,000 allotted for the establishment of T.B. isolation beds; and

(b) if so, what is the amount drawn?

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): (a) and (b). No specific allocation of funds has been made to the Government of Punjab for the establishment of T.B. Isolation beds during 1959-60. The establishment of 55 T.B. Isolation beds in Punjab during 1959-60 has been approved and the State Government will receive a Central subsidy of 50 per cent. of the non-recurring expenditure incurred, limited to a maximum of Rs. 1,250 per bed. A sum of Rs. 44.96 lakhs has been tentatively allocated to the Government of Punjab for the year 1959-60 for a group of schemes including the scheme of establishment of T.B. Isolation beds and the same is made available in monthly instalments as ways and means advances.

Ferozepur Division

1293. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Stations proposed to be constructed next year in the Ferozepore Division in place of old Stations;

(b) whether there is any scheme with the Railway Ministry to change the names and locations of such existing Stations as are far off or remote from important villages; and

(c) if so, the names of those Stations?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The names of the stations where new

station buildings are proposed to be constructed during 1960-61 are as under;—

Dudwindi, Govindgarh, Khokhar, Rure Asal, Jagatpur, Panch Rukhi, Machhrowal, Paror and Dodh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

Fruit Preservation Industry in Punjab

1294. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted to Punjab during the First Five Year Plan period for the development of fruit preservation industry; and

(b) the amount of money allotted to Punjab so far during the Second Five Year Plan period for this purpose?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Nil.

(b) Rs. 70,000.

Provident Fund Benefits for Madras Port Trust Workers

1295. **Shri Anthony Pillai:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many temporary workers have been granted Provident Fund benefits by the Madras Port Trust under Government's decision on Choudhury's Report; and

(b) whether workers designated as casual but employed in occupations other than on project work and cargo handling have also been granted Provident Fund benefits under the said decision?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 115.