

(Shri Raj Bahadur): Administrative approval in respect of both the works referred to, has since been issued. The execution of the projects will be taken in hand soon after the expenditure sanction for the works, which is expected to be issued shortly, has been conveyed by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply to the Central Public Works Department Authorities.

Import of Foodgrains

1305. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Panigrahi:
Shri Anirudh Sinha:
Shri D. C. Sharma
Shri Hem Raj:

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

(a) the total quantity and cost of foodgrains both rice and wheat, imported in 1959 so far; and

(b) its State-wise distribution?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Quantity and C & F value of wheat and rice imported from January to November 1959 are as under:—

Commodity	Quantity in ('000 tons)	C. & F. value in lakhs of rupees
Wheat	3,264.3	11,853.9
Rice	268.1	1,296.4

(b) The foodgrains imported from abroad are partly distributed direct from docks to parties—e.g. flour mills, and to recipient States, and partly taken into Central reserve, where they are stored along with other foodgrains including those procured locally, and issued out from time to time. On receipt in the Central reserve, foodgrains lose their identity as to their time of import and their source, as the accounting and issues are not with reference to these considerations alone. It is, therefore, not possible

to give the State-wise distribution of the foodgrains imported during the current year.

Janata Meals on N. Railway

1306. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Padam Dev:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce Janata meals on Northern Railway as part of scheme to provide cheap and wholesome meals to the travelling public;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) names of the stations on which it will be introduced; and

(d) the date on which it will be introduced?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (d). The sale of "Janata meals" has already been introduced, as an experimental measure, at the following stations on the Northern Railway on the dates shown against each:

1. Varanasi . . . 19-9-1959
2. Pathankot . . . 20-9-1959
3. Moradabad 7. . . 25-9-1959
4. Jullundur City . . . 29-9-1959
5. Allahabad . . . 1-10-1959
6. Tundla . . . 1-10-1959
7. Kanpur . . . 16-10-1959
8. Delhi Jn. . . 22-10-1959

Each such meal comprises of 12 oz. of cooked rice together with one plate Dal, one vegetable and Chutni and costs 62 nP.

Chandigarh Railway Terminus

1307. { Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Hem Raj:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have Chandigarh as terminus in-

lead of Kalka for trains to and from Simla; and

(b) if so, by what date would necessary steps be adopted for the purpose?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Timber from the Andamans

1308. Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether lots of timber were auctioned by the Andaman Government Timber Depot, Calcutta on the 18th March, 30th April and the 12th June, 1959;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the prices obtained in these auctions; and

(c) how do they compare with the prices at which such timbers are sold at Port Blair and the amount of freight paid for their carriage to Calcutta?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 15].

Timber from the Andamans

1309. Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conditions of auction sales conducted by the Andaman Government Timber Depot, Calcutta, allow one and a half month's time to the successful bidder for the removal of timber;

(b) whether it is a fact that M/s. P. C. Ray and Company failed to remove timber auctioned in 1953 within the time limit allowed by conditions of sale;

(c) whether loss was sustained by Government due to re-auction of such timbers subsequently at prices lower than those obtained in the first auctions; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to prevent such losses in future?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). M/s. P. C. Ray & Co. purchased 465 tons of timber in auction sale Nos. 42 and 43 of 1953. Full value of this timber was realised from the Company but they removed only 224 tons within the time limit allowed by the conditions of sale. The unremoved quantity of 241 tons was re-auctioned and sale proceeds credited to Government. There was thus no loss to Government but actually a gain.

State Trading in Sugar

1310. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) in how many States, State Trading in Sugar has been introduced;

(b) what is the price of sugar in those States; and

(c) the prevailing prices of sugar in the remaining States of the country?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Strictly speaking there is no State trading in sugar but sugar is distributed under the supervision of District authorities through licensed wholesalers, Co-operative Societies and approved retailers.

(b) and (c). Price is not always the same everywhere in a State. Price per seer at which sugar is sold through approved retailers at some