

Bridge on National Highway No. 5

486. { Shri B. C. Mullick:
Shri Panigrahi:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the Bridge on river Birupa on National Highway No. 5 will start during the current year;

(b) if so, the estimate of the total expenditure; and

(c) the amount of money sanctioned so far?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The tenders for the work have almost been finalised. The work, it is hoped, will be started during the current year.

(b) and (c). The estimated cost of the work sanctioned by the Government of India is Rs. 32.55 lakhs. The expenditure on the work during the current financial year will be met from the lump-sum provision which exists for such works in the current year's budget.

Enquiry re: Derailment near Kharik Railway Station

487. Shri Hem Barua: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2066 on the 2nd September, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the causes of the derailment which occurred to the Barauni-bound goods train about a mile away from Kharik Railway Station on the Barauni section of the North Eastern Railway on the 20th August, 1959 has been investigated; and

(b) if so, what is the result of the investigation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). Investigations have not yet been completed, due to sickness of the guard of the Train.

Supply of Foodgrains to various States

488. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Panigrahi:
Shri Warlor:
Shri N. M. Deb:
Shri Kodiyar:
Shri Anrudh Sinha:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Punnoose:

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

(a) the quantity of foodgrains both rice and wheat supplied to various States in August, September, October and November, 1959, separately;

(b) whether this quantity was meant to be sold only through fair price shops; and

(c) the price at which it was sold in those States?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) A statement giving the quantities of rice and wheat actually supplied to different States from Central Stocks during the months of August, September, and October, 1959, is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix I, annexure No. 90]. Figures for November, 1959, cannot obviously be available as yet.

(b) The bulk of the quantities were for distribution through fair price shops or modified ration shops.

(c) The Central Government's issue price for wheat is Rs. 14/- per maund and for common rice is Rs. 16/- per maund. The prices of better varieties of rice vary from Rs. 18/- to Rs. 30/- per maund. The prices that the retailers charge from the consumers vary from area to area and are based on the Government's issue price (where the retailer gets his supply from the State Government the issue price of the State Government would be the basis), the cost of handling and transport and the retailers' commission.

Electrification on Northern Railway Stations

489. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what progress has been made