

rice is being issued to the consumers through these shops at Rs. 18.00 per maund.

Irrigation Projects

1666. Shri M. C. Jain: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments have been asked to adopt measures for improving financial returns from irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the actual measures taken by the States in this regard; and

(c) the total cost of irrigation projects so far completed and annual financial return from each?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 25].

(c) The information is being collected.

Shortage of Coal Booking for Assam

1667. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of coal booked to Assam was found short when checked at the destination Station during the last year;

(b) if so, the total shortage occurred during the year; and

(c) the compensation paid by the Railway authorities to the parties concerned as a result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) to (c). No. However, during the year 1960 only 3 claims for alleged shortage of 21 tons of coal were preferred on the N.F. Railway and these were found inadmissible on merits.

Ex-Servicemen in Railways

1668. Shri Ram Garib: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ex-servicemen appointed in Railways

against temporary vacancies after 1st June, 1948, are not given the benefit of seniority for the continuous service rendered by them in the Armed Forces of India;

(b) whether the ex-servicemen employed in the Ministries and their attached and subordinate offices other than Railways are given the benefit of their service in the Armed Forces; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for denying the benefit of seniority to such employees of Railways?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, in accordance with the various orders issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c) The practice in other Ministries till 21-12-59 was that credit for Government service rendered earlier in equivalent grades is given to all employees including ex-servicemen. The adoption of this practice on the Railway side was not considered justified as experience gained as a result of service rendered elsewhere is generally of little use in the Railways.

Ex-Servicemen employed on N. Railway

1669. Shri Ram Garib: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ex-military personnel employed in the Ministry of Railways and its attached and subordinate offices are given benefit of pay and seniority for service rendered by them in the Armed Forces of India;

(b) if so, the number of ex-military personnel employed in the Delhi Division of the Northern Railway; and

(c) how many of them have not so far been given such benefits and what are the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) War Service candidates recruited against the quota of 70% of the permanent vacancies arising between 1-6-42 and