

(b) whether the supply is short as compared to the demand?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Alagesan): (a) The total consumption of Petroleum and Petroleum Products upto the end of October, 1966 is estimated to be 3,76,980 Metric Tonnes.

(b) Supply is being made according to the demand, and so the question of short supply does not arise.

Grant to Universities in Punjab

193. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the grants given to the Universities in Punjab have been less than those given to the Universities in all other States; and

(b) if so, the reason therefor?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) No, Sir. The release of development grants by the University Grants Commission depends on the progress achieved by them in the implementation of approved projects and on availability of matching contribution. There have been universities which have received smaller grants than universities in Punjab.

(b) The question does not arise.

Wage Board for Road Transport Industry

**194. Shri P. Kunhan:
Shri Imbichibava:
Shri M. N. Swamy:**

Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by the Central Wage Board for the Road Transport Industry;

(b) whether the Wage Board has issued any questionnaire to the trade unions and the employers' organisations and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Wage Board propose to consider the question of interim relief to the workers;

(d) if so, when Government are likely to receive the recommendation; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The Wage Board was constituted on 28-5-66. It has held three meetings so far.

(b) The draft questionnaire is to be finalized at the Board's next meeting to be held on 21st and 22nd November 1966.

(c) The question of interim relief is under consideration of the Board.

(d) It is not possible to indicate precisely when the Board would be able to submit its recommendation regarding interim relief.

(e) Does not arise.

Lightening Strike by staff of C.T.O., New Delhi

**195. Dr. Melkote:
Shri Kishen Pattnayak:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri Bagri:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 451 on the 27th July, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry into the causes of the lightening strike by several hundred Operators of the Central Telegraph Office, New Delhi on the 13th July, 1966 has been held;

(b) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the total loss incurred as a result of the strike?

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri Jaganatha Rao): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The enquiry Officer had found that the suspension of work in the New Delhi CTO on the 13th July, 1966 was the culmination of a period of strained relations between the Traffic and Engineering Branches in that office. The immediate provocation was the insistence of the ADET (Electrical) in attempting to replace a table in the Instrument Room of the CTO which had been removed earlier by the Traffic Officers on the ground that it was obstructing freedom of movement of the staff in front of circulation point. The ADET had also made certain disparaging remarks about Traffic Officers. The Enquiry Officer had also held that the action of the Traffic Officer in removing the table was not proper and that this had contributed to the incident.

The report of the Enquiry Officer has been accepted by the Director General and disciplinary proceedings are being instituted against the Engineering and Traffic Officers, who were held to be directly responsible for the incident.

The relevant departmental rules regarding the relationship of Engineering and Traffic Officers in the CTO are also being modified to make the position clear beyond any doubt. Periodical meetings between these officers have also been ordered to promote better coordination.

(c) About 2800 man hours were lost due to the suspension of work for about six hours on that day representing a loss of about Rs. 1900 to Government.

Cheaper Books for Science and Engineering Education

196. Dr. Melkote: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether considerable difficulty is being experienced by the Engine-

ering, Medical and Science students in various cities in getting necessary books for their course, whose cost is prohibitive;

(b) whether Government would consider a proposal to set up non-lending libraries in each city with fifty sets of each of the standard books required for the said courses, library being kept open from early morning till late in the night; and

(c) whether Government would advise the medical, engineering and science institutes to supply full set of books to their post-Graduate students on loan for their use during their course of study and whether Government would sanction necessary additional grant to such Institutions?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Government is seized of this problem.

(b) and (c). Among the various measures under the Government's consideration to make available standard books at reasonable prices, these proposals would also be examined.

Recognition of Unions

197. Dr. Melkote: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the principle of granting recognition to the Unions of Government Employees provided they have enrolled 15 per cent of the total number of workers eligible for such enrolment, is being followed in the Defence and the Railways, by granting recognition to more than one Union or Federation; and

(b) whether such a policy is proposed to be applied to the employees in other Departments as well?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Minister of Defence Supplies in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Hathl): (a) Yes, Sir. This is one of the principles.

(b) The matter is under consideration.