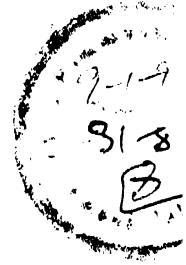
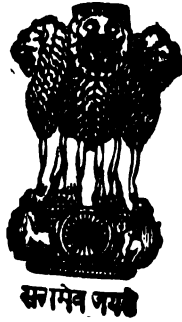


Tuesday, 22nd May, 1951



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME VII, 1951

(2nd April to 16th May, 1951)

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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1951

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT**

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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Tuesday, 22nd May, 1951

*The House met at Half-past Eight
the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PRICE OF FOOD GRAINS

*4366. **Shri Deogirikar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum and maximum rates at which wheat, rice, and *jowar* were purchased by the State Governments during the last year; and

(b) the maximum and minimum rates at which they were sold by those States?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (b). Statement showing the minimum and maximum purchase and issue rates of rice, wheat and *jowar* in different States during 1950 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXV, annexure No. 43.] The prices relate to indigenous grain.

Shri Deogirikar: May I know whether the internal procurement prices vary from State to State and, if so, what are the reasons therefor?

Shri K. M. Munshi: They differ from State to State.

Shri Deogirikar: May I know the reason for it?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The difference arises from this fact that there are some which are producing areas, others are not producing areas; even in a State itself there are areas some of which are surplus areas and the other pockets are deficit. So prices have to vary from place to place in order to attract a larger procurement.

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Shri Deogirikar: Is it a fact that the Pakistan prices of procurement are higher than the procurement prices in India?

Shri K. M. Munshi: There is no control in Pakistan, so far as I know.

Shri Deogirikar: Is the procurement price higher than in India?

Shri K. M. Munshi: There is no procurement in Pakistan.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know the minimum and maximum rates of prices fixed?

Shri K. M. Munshi: They are given in the statement.

Shri Chattopadhyay: Is it a fact that the difference between the procurement price and the selling price is as much as five rupees in some States?

Shri K. M. Munshi: That is not correct. The highest is four rupees, in Bengal.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the rates at which foodgrains are being sold at the fair price shops in the scarcity areas in the State of Bihar?

Mr. Speaker: I am proceeding to the next question.

तम्बाकू

*४३६७ श्री लापडे: (क) क्या जाब तबा कृषि मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि कितने राज्यों में केवल पीने का ही तम्बाकू उगाया जाता है?

(ख) इस प्रकार के तम्बाकू के उत्पादन से सरकार को कितनी वार्षिक आय होती है तथा कितने एकड़ भूमि में इस की कृषि की जाती है?

TOBACCO

[*4367. **Shri Khaparde:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state which are the States which produce tobacco for smoking only?

(b) What annual income accrues to Government on account of this kind of tobacco and what is the acreage devoted to its cultivation?]

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) No State grows tobacco that is used entirely for smoking. Most of the production is, however, used for that purpose.

(b) Separate figures for the amount of excise duty collected by Government on tobacco, used for smoking only, are not available.

A sum of about Rs. 29.5 crores was realised as excise duty on all types of tobacco in 1949-50. In addition, there is the land revenue derived by State Governments from lands under this crop.

The total area under tobacco of all varieties during 1949-50 was estimated at 7,74,000 acres.

श्री खापर्डे : क्या माननीय मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि प्रति वर्ष हिन्दुस्तान में जो तम्बाकू पैदा होती है उस में से कितनी खाने और पीने में इस्तेमाल होती है।

[**Shri Khaparde:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state what quantity of tobacco produced in India is being used for chewing and smoking purposes respectively every year?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have not got the figures of consumption of tobacco separately as required by the hon. Member.

श्री खापर्डे : हिन्दुस्तान में कितनी विदेशी कम्पनियां हैं जो हिन्दुस्तान की तम्बाकू से चुरट और सिगरेट बनाती हैं।

[**Shri Khaparde:** How many foreign owned companies working in India manufacture cigars and cigarettes from Indian tobacco?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: I should like to have notice of that question.

श्री खापर्डे : क्या माननीय मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि विदेशी कम्पनियों का मुकाबला करने के लिए

सरकार की ओर से हिन्दुस्तानी कम्पनियों को कुछ सुविधायें दी जाती हैं कि वे यहाँ की तम्बाकू का उपयोग कर के विदेशी कम्पनियों से कम्पीट कर सकें।

[**Shri Khaparde:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether any special facilities are being given by the Government to the Indian companies so that by using the indigenous tobacco they may also be in a position to compete with these foreign companies?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: I think the question might better be addressed to my hon. colleague the Minister of Commerce and Industry. He would be able to answer it.

Shri Kesava Rao: What is the percentage of tobacco produced in the country which is consumed internally?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have not got the figures here.

श्री द्विवेदी : क्या सिगरेट बनाने के कारखाने खोलने के लिए मशीनरी मंगाने का प्रबन्ध किया जा रहा है, और अगर हाँ, तो सरकार के सामने इस के लिए कितनी अजियां पेश हैं।

[**Shri Dwivedi:** Are any arrangements being made to import machinery for establishing cigarette factories in India? If so, then what is the number of applications that are pending before the Government in this connection?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: It might be addressed to my hon. colleague. I am not interested in the industry of smoking.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN HYDERABAD

*4368. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is under the consideration of the Government of India to introduce responsible Government in Hyderabad?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the various steps launched by Government to speed up the introduction of responsible Government?

(c) If the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the chief causes for delaying the introduction of a responsible Government?

(d) Have any representations from responsible quarters in Hyderabad been received in this regard?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a), (c) and (d). I am sure that like me the hon. Member understands responsible Government to mean a Government in which the executive is responsible to the legislature. There is no question of the introduction of responsible Government being now merely under the consideration of the Government. There is no legislature at present in Hyderabad. As soon as such a legislature comes into existence, an executive responsible to it should follow in the ordinary course.

(b) Hyderabad will be ready to hold elections for its legislature along with other States towards the end of this year.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is it a fact that the Ministry's offer to expand the State Cabinet was rejected by the Hyderabad State Congress and, if so, for what reasons?

Shri Gopaldaswami: That is what I find from the report which appeared in the newspaper. I have officially no communication to that effect.

Shri Rathnaswamy: May I know whether a deputation of the Hyderabad State Congress waited on the hon. Minister some time back and impressed on the Ministry the necessity of establishing at an early date a responsible and popular Government in Hyderabad?

Shri Gopaldaswami: That has been done more than once. But the main question now, when there is no legislature, is how to make the Ministry more acceptable to the people. That question has been discussed. As the hon. Member himself said, there was a proposal made to which I agreed. But the newspapers said that subsequently the State Congress is unwilling to go forward with it.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is the Government aware of a large volume of public opinion which feels that the failure of the establishment of a popular and responsible Government in Hyderabad has only failed to evoke that amount of popular enthusiasm and co-operation on the part of the people.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He is leading to a discussion.

Shri Dwivedi: May I know what the hon. Minister means by "in the ordinary course" in his reply? What will be the speed?

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question.

AGRICULTURAL FARMS UNDER UNIVERSITIES

*4369. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a scheme has been circulated by Government to the Universities asking them to start agricultural farms and cultivate them on modern lines with a view to supply food grains to the resident students?

(b) If so, which of the Universities have agreed to the proposal?

(c) Which of them have already established farms?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes. In February, 1951 the Vice-Chancellors of Indian Universities were requested to consider the feasibility of starting farms in the Universities and cultivating them on modern lines so as to enable the Universities and affiliated institutions to meet the needs of their resident students for foodgrains and to demonstrate improved practices in the rural areas. A scheme will be prepared only after the views of the Universities have been received and considered by Government.

(b) The proposal is still being considered by the Universities and the affiliated institutions.

(c) The information is not available at this stage.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether there is any proposal to give financial aid to such of the Universities as will take up this scheme?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Well, if the Universities undertake any scheme of Grow More Food they will be given all the facilities which are given under that scheme.

Shri S. N. Das: Will it be in the form of a loan or a lump sum grant?

Mr. Speaker: It is too early to put that question at this stage. Let the scheme come.

Shri Hussain Imam: May I know whether only those Universities which have Agricultural Colleges attached to them will be asked to join in this scheme or whether all Universities will be asked, irrespective of any such consideration?

Shri K. M. Munshi: All the Universities have been addressed. The scheme does not necessarily restrict itself to Agricultural Colleges. The idea is that where there are large hostels, if farms could be attached to them then progress could be made in the direction of having centres of modernised agriculture.

Prof. K. K. Bhattacharya: May I know what are the Universities that have been addressed with regard to this matter?

Shri K. M. Munshi: All the Universities, including the University of Allahabad.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: In the case of affiliated colleges to Universities which have already farms attached to them, is Government prepared to grant any monetary assistance to encourage this sort of farming?

Shri K. M. Munshi: But the reports have yet to be received whether they would like the idea or not.

Mr. Speaker: It is premature now unless the reports are received.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Irrespective of the reports, there are some colleges which have farms.....

Mr. Speaker: Maybe. Let them have a considered report. He said that once in the beginning.

Prof. K. T. Shah: Since most of the Universities are situated in towns or in urban areas without considerable lands adjoining them, will the Government offer them land or procure land for them if the scheme is to be realised?

Shri K. M. Munshi: If the Universities are forthcoming to take part in this, then the question will have to be considered how to acquire the necessary farms for them.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether this scheme contemplates the opening of a dairy for the supply of milk for the resident students?

Shri K. M. Munshi: That is the second stage. First of all the Universities must feel interested in producing something except the graduates.

Mr. Speaker: His question is whether agricultural improvement would include dairy also.

Shri K. M. Munshi: It necessarily includes, but for the moment it is rather a far cry. The scheme is still in a very early stage.

COMPENSATION TO NAGAS, MANIPUR

*4370. **Shri Krishnanand Rai:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of money had been paid by Government as war compensation claims to the Naga people of Manipur;

(b) whether the tribes living on the eastern border of Manipur Hills have also been paid some war compensation, if so, what is the amount;

(c) whether any agitation is going on at present among the Naga tribes of the North Eastern Frontier of India for Self-Government; and

(d) if so, what is the exact nature of this agitation and what steps Government are taking in the matter?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):

(a) An approximate amount of Rs. 2,21,559.

(b) No.

(c) There is no such agitation among the Nagas of Manipur.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri Krishnanand Rai: May I know whether there is any bone of contention between the Naga people and the Government with regard to the amount of compensation that has been paid to them and that was claimed by them?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I am afraid, I have not got that information here.

Shri Chaliha: May I know the structure of society of the people in the Naga Hills and the stage of development in that part of the world?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is rather too wide a question.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: May I know if the hon. Minister is in a position to state what is the total amount of compensation claimed by the entire population of the Manipur State?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I have information only on the amount paid. I am sorry I have not got that other information.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether the compensation has been paid to the Nagas of Manipur State only or to those outside it?

Mr. Speaker: The question is restricted to Manipur and to the Nagas living on the eastern border.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether any agitation instigated by foreigners for secession of Manipur State or Kohima is going on in these areas?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I do not think that question will arise.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: May I know what was the amount of compensation paid to the Nagas of Lushai Hills and Kohima?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I am sorry, I could not give the information.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the Nagas in Manipur or in the Assam State have announced their desire to take a plebiscite for the purpose...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not allowing that question. It is beyond the scope. It is no use putting questions of this sort.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: Is it not a fact that the Nagas of Manipur want to join their counterparts in the Naga Hill areas in order to have a homogeneous administration?

Shri Gopaldaswami: We have no information to that effect.

FOOD BONUS

*4371. **Shri Barman:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the Basic Plan of import and export of individual States of India in the year 1951?

(b) What was the Basic Plan in 1950 and was it deviated from in the different States?

(c) How was the procurement bonus allocated in 1950 and what are the changes made in bonus distribution principle in 1951?

(d) What amounts of bonus were earned by West Bengal in the last five years and under what heads?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) A statement showing the Basic Plan of import and export quotas for 1951 as revised to date is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXV, annexure No. 44.]

(b) A statement showing the Basic Plan of import and export quotas for 1950 fixed at the beginning of the year compared with the final quotas is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXV, annexure No. 45.]

(c) During 1950 bonus was allowed at the rate of As. 8 per maund on quantities of foodgrains procured and an additional As. 8 per maund on quantities of foodgrains exported to deficit areas under the Basic Plan. Bonus on gram was also payable at the rate upto 17th August, 1950. Under the revised bonus scheme in force from 1st January, 1951 no bonus is payable on foodgrains procured for internal consumption. Bonus is allowed on a sliding scale on the basis of exports and imports in relation to export and import quotas fixed for each State. A note detailing the salient features of the scheme was laid

on the Table of the House in reply to Starred Question No. 3451 by Shri A. C. Guha on 24th April, 1951.

(d) The bonus scheme was introduced with effect from 1st January, 1948. Bonus paid to West Bengal during the years 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 are as follows:

Year	Procurement	Export	Total
	Bonus	Bonus	
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1948-49	87,20,448	..	87,20,448
1949-50	35,93,768	..	35,93,768
1950-51	59,14,309	14,413	59,28,722
Total	1,82,28,615	14,413	1,82,43,028

Shri Barman: In view of the large fluctuations of bonus in the years previous to the change of this bonus payment scheme, may I know the procurement quota figures in the year 1950 and in the year 1951 of West Bengal and how the quota was subsequently modified in 1951?

Shri K. M. Munshi: So far as the Basic Plan in West Bengal is concerned, in 1950 the ceiling of imports was 250,000 tons.

Shri Barman: I wanted to know the procurement quota on which the import and export is based.

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have not got the information. The statements are all there. I will have to work it out if the hon. Member wants a specific answer.

Shri Barman: I want to know whether this procurement quota of a State is based *ad hoc* depending on the powers of the procuring officers or are they based on certain principles on which the surplus of the growing areas is assessed and then this figure is fixed?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The basic quota is based on certain principles. That depends on what the State expects to procure as well as the commitments of rationing which the State maintains for the next year. So the difference is found and that difference is put forward by the State. Then there is general consultation between the Centre and the State; they fix up a particular figure and say 'This will be the import quota required by the State'. I have not got the figures on which this allotment was based for the moment.

Shri Barman: Is it a fact that in our past experience, an area from which procurement had been made subsequently became a scarcity area and food from outside had to be rushed

ed to that area, and if so how many cases were there in the past?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The reasons why what are supposed to be surplus areas become scarcity areas are many, one of them being the holding capacity of the farmers or traders, and secondly political agitation going on in that District which prevents successful procurement. Seasonal condition also is an important factor. Wherever we find that procurement is not sufficient, food is rushed.

Shri A. C. Guha: In view of the great disparity in the procurement bonus in the three years, may I ask if it was due to failure of crop or failure in procurement?

Shri K. M. Munshi: In 1949-50, it was due to failure of crops.

Shri A. C. Guha: And in 1950-51?

Shri K. M. Munshi: In 1950-51, I think they were able to procure most of the things.

Shri Amolakh Chand: May I know how this bonus is utilised by the State Governments and whether the Government of India have issued any instructions on the subject to the State Governments?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The food bonus is kept to the account of the State concerned. That is given as a grant for the Grow More Food schemes.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: While fixing the procurement quota, what is the percentage of grain left in non-rationalised areas, where grain is procured from big *mirasdars*?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Allowances are made for their requirements in non-rationalised areas.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: May I know whether it is a fact that procurement during the current *rabi* in U.P. is far below what was anticipated and what is the reason for such low procurement?

Shri K. M. Munshi: It is too early to say that. The U.P. Government itself felt that this time, the procurement season will be late.

Shri T. N. Singh: In view of the stoppage of bonus for procurement of grains for internal requirements, what do Government propose to do to help the Grow More Food Campaign which is suffering from lack of funds?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As a matter of fact, the Grow More Food grants are not necessarily restricted to the bonus. The bonus system was introduced in

the hope that the States would encourage exports from that State to other deficit States. That result was not achieved. Therefore, there was no meaning in giving them bonus. That does not mean that they won't be given Grow More Food grants.

Shri Satish Chandra: May I know how do the Government ensure that the amount of procurement bonus earned by the States is spent on Grow More Food schemes and does not form part of the general revenues of the States?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The whole scheme is this. The bonus earned by a State is kept by the Centre in the first instance. When Grow More Food schemes are put forward, first of all moneys are spent from that bonus for the benefit of the State. The rest of it is divided between the Centre and the State in equal proportions.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know how the bonus in West Bengal was spent? Has the Government got any figures?

Shri K. M. Munshi: They have got their schemes and food bonus will be spent on those schemes.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

PRINCESS ABIDA SULTANA OF BHOPAL

*4372. **Shri Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether princess heir-apparent Abida Sultana of Bhopal has announced to be a national of Pakistan;

(b) if so, who shall succeed the Nawab of Bhopal so far as his fortune, private property and the privy purse in India are concerned;

(c) whether the sum of rupees one lakh being the annual allowance of the princess is still being paid to her; and

(d) whether she still continues to retain her right as the heir-apparent of Bhopal?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) The Government of India have seen press reports to this effect.

(b) and (d). The question of succession will be considered when occasion arises.

(c) The Government of India understand that the allowance is not being paid at present by His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal.

Shri Dwivedi: I want to know whether permission and passport necessary for going abroad was obtained by the princess when she departed for Pakistan.

Shri Gopalswami: She must have left with the necessary documents; but certainly she had no permission to stay away in Pakistan.

Shri Dwivedi: May I know if the princess experienced some difficulty here or what was the reason why she left India for Pakistan?

Shri Gopalswami: I would rather not make an inaccurate answer. I should like to have notice.

Dr. Tek Chand: May I enquire whether the property of the princess has been declared evacuee property under the law?

Shri Gopalswami: Proceedings have been taken by the Custodian machinery.

Shri Kamath: Has the Nawabzadi been declared an evacuee so far?

Shri Gopalswami: I said proceedings have commenced. The procedure has to be gone through before a declaration can be made.

Thakur Lal Singh: How much money has the princess taken from India to Pakistan? Are the Government aware?

Shri Gopalswami: I cannot say exactly; it must be a few lakhs.

Sardar Sochet Singh: Is payment of princely allowances conditional upon their residence in the country?

Shri Gopalswami: No; but as the hon. Member knows, remittances of this description between India and Pakistan entangle people in the Evacuee Property law.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: May I know whether the question of the property of Sultana Abida was discussed with the Nawab of Bhopal by the hon. Minister recently, in the discussions which he had recently with the Nawab of Bhopal?

Shri Gopalswami: If the hon. Member refers to the conversations I had with the Nawab just a few days ago, the answer to his question is in the negative.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Paniwala MAHARAJA

*4373. **Shri Ganamukhi:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the experts of Geological Survey have questioned the merits of water divining?

(b) How many *Paniwala* Maharajs have been employed by Government?

(c) Are their methods of selection known and explained on scientific basis?

(d) What is the amount paid for every well site selected?

(e) Do they possess geological knowledge or only intuitive power?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes. They have expressed the opinion that since the procedure adopted by water diviners is not open to scientific investigation and proof, it cannot be accepted by people who are trained in scientific methods. It should also be remembered that even the results of Geological Survey can be verified only by boring as in the case of findings by water diviners.

(b) Only one water diviner popularly known as *Paniwala* Maharaj has been employed as a member of the Rajasthan Water Board.

(c) and (e). No. Water divining or dowsing is now receiving the attention of modern scientists.

(d) No payment is made on the basis of 'every well site selected'.

Shri Ganamukhi: May I know whether the employment of such persons has been approved by the I.C.A.R.?

Shri K. M. Munshi: No. This *Paniwala* Maharaj is employed by the Rajasthan Water Board.

Shri Ganamukhi: Have the Government received any reports from the Geological experts questioning the merits of water divining?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I think I received one report at one time. But, the fact is wherever the *Paniwala* Maharaj has divined, you find water in spite of the Geological Experts.

Shri S. N. Das: Have the experts of the Geological Department and this *Paniwala* Maharaj ever met to compare their respective scientific and intuitive knowledge with a view to coordinate their plans?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think the best course would be to go to the next question.

Shri Kamath: What is the answer to part (e) of the question?

Shri K. M. Munshi: So far as the scientists are concerned, they are not likely to agree.....

Shri Sidhva: Part (d) of the question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The difficulty is the hon. Members are carrying on talks. One Member says part (e); another says part (d). He may read the answer in the proceedings. Next question. The hon. Minister need not repeat that answer. I have called the next question.

ARMY HELP IN FOOD SITUATION

***4374. Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar has requested for the help of the Army in tackling the food situation in the State; and

(b) if so, in what manner and for what purpose the help from the army is contemplated?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The Government of India enquired of the Government of Bihar recently whether they required any assistance from the Army in fighting the food scarcity in Bihar, primarily in the matter of transport and distribution in view of the difficulties of communication in North Bihar which will become worse with the onset of the monsoon. Following this, the Bihar Government have examined their requirements and discussed the matter with the local Army Authorities and later with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Ministry of Defence.

(b) The Defence Services have agreed to provide assistance in the matter of transport of foodgrains, of technical personnel, such as overseers, for measuring and supervising relief measures, for repairing and reinforcing road bridges and culverts etc. as far as possible. They are also examining to what extent they can help the Bihar Government with a loan of essential materials like pipes required for tube-wells and tarpaulin covers.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Has the help of the Army personnel sought by the Bihar Government started now?

Shri K. M. Munshi: So far the Bihar Government has not yet indicated what sort of help they would require from the Defence Ministry.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know whether the help of the Army will be taken for the distribution of food?

Shri K. M. Munshi: No, it is not included in the help required so far, because the Bihar Government is satisfied that the present arrangement is working satisfactorily.

Shri Sohan Lal: Will the help extend to the whole of Bihar and if so, what is the number of soldiers proposed to be engaged in this work?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As a matter of fact, the whole of this is a hypothetical question because for the moment, the Bihar Government has not indicated the nature and the extent of the assistance which they would require from the Defence Ministry.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether certain areas reclaimed are being allotted to the Army people for actual cultivation and production?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I don't think it arises from the question, Sir.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know which of the non-official agencies outside the State of Bihar have offered help to the State of Bihar?

Mr. Speaker: That again will be going outside the scope of the question.

GANGA WATER TRANSPORT BOARD

***4375. Shri Krishnanand Rai:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up a Ganga Water Transport Board;

(b) if so, the purpose and the personnel of the Board;

(c) whether the Board will soon start a pilot project for towing country boats on Ganga; and

(d) whether Government are getting some technical help from the U.N. in this scheme and if so, in what way?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) The Board will co-ordinate the activities of the different Governments in regard to Inland Water Transport development and consider their proposals relating to the development of traffic over particular stretches of the river Ganga, the maintenance of the channel, steps to increase the depth of the channel wherever necessary, administrative problems arising out of registration and licensing of vessels, inter-State questions relating to movement of goods by river, amenities for passengers, fixation of passenger and freight rates and other cognate matters.

(ii) The Board will consist of a representative each of the State Governments of West Bengal, Bihar, Assam and U.P. and one representative of the Central Water Power Commission

with the Secretary, Ministry of Transport as Chairman and will have power to co-opt representatives of other interests concerned like Railways, Steamer Companies and port authority.

(c) and (d). The Government of India are considering a proposal to seek the assistance of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration for arranging a pilot project to test the feasibility of towing country boats by shallow draft tugs. The assistance to be sought will include the supply of tugs and the loan of the services of top technical experts for operating and guiding the project.

Shri Krishnanand Rai: May I know whether any agreements have been arrived at by the Government of India with any foreign Governments for providing experts and machinery for the work at these ports?

Shri Santhanam: I don't think there are ports etc. in the river Ganga for which this equipment etc. may be required.

Shri Sohan Lal: May I know from which place will this towing service start?

Shri Santhanam: That has not yet been settled.

Shri A. C. Guha: Will the jurisdiction of this board extend to the delta areas also or will it be confined only to the upper portions of the Ganga?

Shri Santhanam: I think this board will have jurisdiction over the entire Ganga.

Shri A. C. Guha: Including the delta area?

Shri Amolakh Chand: Will the Central Government meet the expenditure on this board or will it be shared by the Provincial Governments?

Shri Santhanam: The present plan is that both the Central and the State Governments will meet the expenditure.

Shri Amolakh Chand: May I know whether the new Paddle Steamer "The Yamuna" built at Glasgow on the order of the Oudh-Tirhut Railways will be able to ply between Allahabad and Buxar?

Shri Santhanam: The railway ferry is only for the railway ghats.

Shri Shiv Charan Lal: By which time is this project expected to be completed?

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Shri Santhanam: It has not yet started, we are just considering the starting of it.

WRECKAGE OF "MALABAR PRINCESS"

*4376. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey of the wreckage of the Indian airliner "Malabar Princess" has been undertaken; and

(b) whether the bodies of any of the victims of that wreckage have been found?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) Not yet, but it is proposed to be undertaken very shortly as soon as the weather conditions permit.

(b) Does not arise.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether Government propose to send a party to ascend the summit of the hill where the dead people are lying?

Shri Kidwai: The party was to have started the work in April. But owing to heavy snow fall early this year it could not be done. It is hoped that weather conditions will be better by the close of this month or early next month and then it will be possible for the party to proceed.

Shri Kamath: Has any enquiry been ordered into this accident?

Shri Kidwai: I presume it is in French territory that this accident occurred and the French Government will order the enquiry.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the crew of the Indian airliner were insured and if so for what amount? We know that under the civil aviation rules they have to insure their lives.

Shri Kidwai: This question did not refer to insurance. I hope the hon. Member has seen the rules.

CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

*4377. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of capital outlay up till now for the formation of the Central Tractor Organisation;

(b) the amount of money spent on the maintenance and working including pay etc., of the Central Tractor Organisation since its inception up till now; and

(c) the area of lands reclaimed up till now by it?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (b).

The total amount of capital outlay is Rs. 4,97,25,546 upto the 31st March, 1951. Of this sum, a total amount of Rs. 1,12,00,891 was spent on the maintenance and working, including pay etc. of the Central Tractor Organisation. Details of expenditure incurred are given in the statement placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXV, annexure No. 46.]

(c) The total area reclaimed upto the 30th April, 1951 is 3,83,337 acres.

Shri Kshudiram Mahata: For how many days in the year is this organisation engaged in reclamation work and what other work does it do during the other days?

Shri K. M. Munshi: During the monsoon months evidently the Tractor Organisation cannot work. It works, I think from about October-November to the end of May.

Shri Kshudiram Mahata: But the latter portion of my question has not been answered, Sir. I asked what other work does it do during the other days.

Shri K. M. Munshi: How can the tractors work in the monsoon? There is no other work that the tractors can do except tilling the soil.

Shri Kshudiram Mahata: What about the staff?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Staff? I shall enquire; I don't think they are doing anything during monsoon.

Shri Sidhva: May I know, Sir, whether the organisation is self-supporting and whether there was any loss or profit in the last year.

Shri K. M. Munshi: So far as last year is concerned, there is still some recovery of rent from the agriculturists, and no accounts have been made up so far as the last year's accounts are concerned.

Shri Sidhva: I want to know whether there was a profit or loss last year and the year previous to that?

Shri K. M. Munshi: It is worked on a no-profit and no-loss basis.

Shri Sidhva: What was the profit or.....

Mr. Speaker: He has said that for last year the recovery work is going on.

Shri Kshudiram Mahata: What is the average cost of reclaimed land per acre?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As regards old tractors, the rate is Rs. 17-8-0 per tractor hour and as regard the *kans* reclamation it is Rs. 52 per acre and for jungle clearance it is Rs. 130 per acre.

Dr. Deshmukh: Sir, my hon. friend here wanted to know what is the average cost per acre for this reclamation.

Shri K. M. Munshi: Rs. 52 per acre is calculated on the basis of the actual cost to Government.

Shri Hussain Imam: What is the amount outstanding from the State Governments for the work of reclamation?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have not got the figures here with me. But about Rs. 67 lakhs have been recovered from the States—I am speaking subject to correction.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: It is not possible to satisfy half a dozen Members. We are, I am afraid, going into details. We now go to the next question.

INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

*4378. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the annual expenditure incurred on Indian Agricultural Research Institute at Delhi?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): The annual expenditure incurred on the Institute and its sub-stations at Pusa and Karnal during the last three years is as follows:

1948 49	1949-50	1950 51
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
20,26,934	20,50,845	20,50,700
	(Provisional figures.)	

Shri Kshudiram Mahata: May I know the main functions of this institution and how the tillers or the producers are actually benefited out of this institution?

Shri K. M. Munshi: They are research institutions and they carry on researches and all researches carried on by the I. R. I. have been summarised in my answer to a previous question which was given only recently on the 7th April, 1950 to which I would refer the hon. Member.

AGRICULTURAL FARMS

*4379 **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government agricultural farms, if any, in the Centrally Administered Areas;

(b) the total acreage of lands and the number of different grades of experts attached to these farms including administrative heads of such farms;

(c) the total annual expenditure for all these farms including pay, implements and land tax etc.;

(d) the total income in terms of money annually from these farms; and

(e) the number of officers having B.Sc. degree or post-graduate degree attached to these farms?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be furnished when ready.

PROCUREMENT IN UTTAR PRADESH

*4380. **Shri Amolakh Chand:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the progress of procurement in Uttar Pradesh from 1st April, 1951?

(b) What was the amount of food grains procured last year during the corresponding period?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) From 1st April, 1951 up to 3rd May, 1951, (the latest date for which reports have been received) the U. P. Government procured 19,401 tons of foodgrains, consisting of 10,361 tons rice, 4,743 tons wheat and 4,297 tons other grains.

(b) The quantity procured during the corresponding period of 1950 was 28,331 tons consisting of 14,064 tons rice, 8,361 tons wheat and 5,906 tons other grains.

Shri Amolakh Chand: May I know the reason for the decrease in the procurement?

Shri K. M. Munshi: There were unexpected rains in the month of March 1951 which had the effect of postponing the harvest. According to the report received from the U. P. Government there was likely to be a fortnight's delay in the commencement of the main rabi harvest. In fact, during the months of January to March, 1951 the U. P. Government procured more foodgrains than during the corresponding months of 1950. The other reason was immediately after the Kharif harvest an increase of Rs. 2 per maund was allowed for millets and maize as

a special case upto 15th February, 1951 to enable the State Governments to mop up all available surpluses. This having been achieved, the procurement after the restoration of the original lower price level, has naturally decreased.

Shri Amolakh Chand: Is it not a fact that the food control policy of the Government of India was responsible for this decrease in procurement of grams?

Shri K. M. Munshi: That is the version of the U. P. Government.

Shri Amolakh Chand: May I know what were the reasons for the decontrol of grams and what were the reasons for restoring it again and what was the time during which this decontrol question was pending?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The reasons for decontrol of grams last year are well known. Surplus Provinces had any amount of gram and they had banned exports in order to keep it themselves and the price in the surplus States of gram was Rs. 8-8-0 to Rs. 10-8-0 while in places like Madras the price rose to Rs. 60. In order to equalize the distribution, gram had to be decontrolled. It continued to be decontrolled this year because the Government of India had no central reserve for the use of extremely deficit States like Bihar and it was essential that the gram which was produced in very large quantities in the surplus States should circulate freely. Recently however the U. P. Government pressed the Government of India to reconsider the question and in view of the fact that the Eastern U. P. is more or less having conditions similar to Bihar—same scarcity conditions as in Bihar—the Government of India has now permitted the U. P. Government to impose the ban.

Shri Amolakh Chand: Is it not a fact that the decontrol is not limited only to U. P. but to all Governments?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The decontrol extends to the whole of India but now power has been given to two States which claim to be deficit viz., U. P. and Rajasthan to impose the control on gram.

Shri Kamath: From reports available, has the work of procurement in Uttar Pradesh received an impetus after the Prime Minister's recent speech at Bulandshahar calling upon the people of U. P. to come to the aid of Bihar and Madras?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I should like to have notice of it. I do not know exactly the position.

Shri Kamath: No, no. Speech in Bulandshahar, not position.....

Mr. Speaker: Order. order.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Is it a fact that the removal of control on gram last year resulted in removal of the scarcity of gram in those Provinces where gram was scarce and it also brought relief to those Provinces where gram was in abundance bringing additional profit to the farmers?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The answer is in the affirmative.

MODEL AGRICULTURAL FARMS

*4381. **Pandit. Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether there are (Central) Government experimental or model agricultural farms in the country?

(b) Are they working on profit or loss?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes.

(b) The farms being experimental, are not worked on commercial basis.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether these farms have actually been working at a loss?

Shri K. M. Munshi: They are working at a loss if you take it in a commercial sense. They are intended to conduct experiments in and enrich the country by their results.

Shri Satish Chandra: Is it a fact that the experimental farm at Karnal has recently been converted into a dairy farm and if so, why?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As a matter of fact the Karnal farm was always intended as an experimental dairy farm. It is being continued as a dairy farm; the agricultural experiments that were carried on were not successful and therefore they had to be closed.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Is it the object of this scheme of a model farm to show to *kisans*, tenants and cultivators that they should in that manner cultivate land to produce more so that they may have profit?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The hon. Member is confounding experimental farms with model farms. The experimental farms are not intended for giving *moile* to the farmers.

Shri Shiv Charan Lal: The question is about experimental or model farms and the answer was 'yes'. Does it mean there are model farms and they are running at a loss?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The experimental research farm is quite different from the model farm.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know whether the cost of production on these farms is higher or lower than the yield?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Do you mean in experimental research farms?

Mr. Speaker: The reply is obvious.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Are there model farms or not?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The Government of India have no model farms of their own.

LANDING CHARGES OF AIRCRAFTS

*4382. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what are the landing charges of our aircrafts in India?

(b) How do they compare with landing charges of aircrafts in U.K., U.S.A., France, Holland and Argentine?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) The information was given in my reply to part (i) of Dr. M. M. Das's Starred Question No. 3456 on the 24th April, 1951.

(b) I place a statement on the Table. [See Appendix XXV, annexure No. 47.]

Shri Hussain Imam: Can the hon. Minister explain the vast difference between the landing charges for U. K. and India and also of the U. S. A. and India?

Shri Kidwai: That explains it. We have laid the charges according to the capacity of our liners to pay and on the basis of our expenses.

Shri Hussain Imam: The answer was that it is yearly half the Indian landing charge.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever it may be, the answer is there. It is according to our conditions here.

TRANSPORT OF BETEL LEAVES

*4383. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway Stations on Bengal Nagpur Railway from which betel leaves are transported to different parts of India; and

(b) whether it is not a fact that betel leaves being one of the perishable goods, they are carried by Passenger trains and not by Parcel Express?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Thirty-three.

(b) Betel leaves are despatched by Passenger trains and also by Parcels Express trains on sections where such trains are running.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the hon. Minister or the Railway Board have received complaints from betel leaves growers in those areas that due to lack of proper transport they are undergoing heavy loss?

Shri Santhanam: I remember to have received some complaints and I immediately instructed that the matter should be inquired into and remedied.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it a fact that the 12 Up and 14 Up used to stop at Machada but the stoppage has been abolished and now another train stops there only for a minute?

Shri Santhanam: I cannot be expected to know the detailed timings of particular trains at particular stations.

Shri Kamath: Is the transport of *pan* governed by the same rules on all the railways or by different rules on different railways?

Shri Santhanam: If the hon. Member refers to the freight it is the same throughout. Of course the *pan* has to be carried by different trains on different railways.

Shri Amolakh Chand: Is it a fact that betel leaves are transported by air also from Madras, Delhi and Banaras?

Shri Santhanam: Yes, some quantity is being transported by air.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Betel leaves being perishable goods how can it be transported by Parcels Express trains to long distances?

Shri Santhanam: Some kinds of *pan* can stand eight to ten days. In fact they are being carried from the South to North India and they last. It depends upon the quality of the *pan*.

KARNAL DAIRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AUDIT)

*4384. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any audit has been made of the accounts of the Karnal Dairy Research Institute by any audit party of the Accountant General of Central Revenues?

(b) If so, has that audit party made any recommendation in regard to the financial position of that Institute?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) By the Karnal Dairy Research Institute the hon. Member is presumably referring to the Sub-station of the I.A.R.I. at Karnal where an experimental dairy herd was maintained. If so, the audit note on the accounts of the Sub-station for 1949-50 was received.

(b) The note recommends that steps should be taken to make the Dairy at least self-sufficient, if not a profitable concern.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether according to the annual income and expenditure of that Dairy Institute the working of the Institute resulted in any profit?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The expenditure is Rs. 1,20,000 during the year, while the receipts from the dairy are only Rs. 42,346 in the year 1949-50. The deficit therefore was about Rs. 77,000.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it a fact that on the disbandment of the Jubbulpore Institute the cattle were transported to Karnal and were auctioned there? Why were the cattle at all sent to Karnal rather than being auctioned at Jubbulpore, so that the transport charges could be saved?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I do not think the hon. Member's information is correct. The Government of India had two farms, one at Karnal and the other at Jubbulpore. When it was found that the latter was running a large deficit, the Jubbulpore farm was handed over to the Rehabilitation Ministry for the land being distributed to the refugees. As regards the specialised herd there, it was transferred to Karnal in order to preserve the herd. No kind of auction of these pedigree herds that I know of ever took place, or would have been in national interests.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In view of the fact that the Karnal Institute is running at a loss, may I know whether this Institute also would be disbanded like the Jubbulpore Institute?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Satish Chandra: Immediately before the reorganisation of the Karnal farm, is it a fact that the officer in charge of that farm was neither an agronomist nor a dairy expert?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The officer in charge was removed from his charge of the Karnal farm and another more competent person was put in his place.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Is it a fact that different breeds of cattle are herded indiscriminately at Karnal?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I do not think so.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order let us go to the next question.

'OWN YOUR TELEPHONE' SCHEME

*4385. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many number of telephones still remain to be installed under the 'Own Your Own Telephone' Scheme?

(b) When are they likely to get the telephones?

(c) What is the number of displaced persons on the waiting list for the demand of telephones, State-wise?

(d) How many displaced persons have so far been provided with telephones and when remainders are likely to be installed?

(e) What is the position of key boards and plants for installation of new phones in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Cawnpore, Lucknow, Nagpur, Patna and Simla?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) 2022 (on 8th May, 1951).

(b) The installation of equipment is already in progress at all stations where telephones under the 'Own Your Telephone' Scheme are pending installation; most of the connections will be given by the end of 1951.

(c) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXV, annexure No. 48.]

Shri Sidhva: It appears from the statement that in Calcutta a further installation of 3,330 lines in Burrabazar and of 4,000 lines in Calcutta Hare Street Exchange is in progress. When are they likely to be completed?

Shri Kidwai: In the next few months.

Shri Sidhva: As regards Madras it is stated that further 3,000 lines equipment will be ordered when the approval of the Standing Finance Committee has been accorded. What is the cost of this scheme?

Shri Kidwai: The other day I answered the question of the cost in every detail.

Shri Sidhva: What is the total amount?

Shri Kidwai: The total amount was mentioned at that time, that is only four days ago.

Shri Hussain Imam: When do the Government expect to complete the new telephone exchange in Calcutta?

Shri Kidwai: I do not know about what exchange the hon. Member is asking the question.

Shri Hussain Imam: The exchange at the Dalhousie Square.

Shri Kidwai: I hope by the end of 1953.

Shri A. C. Guha: What is the number of applicants still on the waiting list in Calcutta?

Shri Kidwai: The question was only about the 'Own Your Own Telephone' Scheme.

Shri A. C. Guha: Under that scheme.

Shri Kidwai: It is in the statement.

TRANSPORT CHARGES OF IMPORTED FOOD GRAINS

*4386. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the amount of port charges paid to various Port Trusts in India for import of various kinds of food grains into India for the years 1948, 1949 and 1950, each year separately?

(b) Was any concession made by the P. T. Board or was it the usual scheduled rate?

(c) How much amount of sea freight for import of the food grains from foreign countries to Indian ports was paid during the same period?

(d) What was the amount of Railway freight and other transport charges paid for internal movement of the food grains?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a), (b) and (d). The information is not readily available.

(c) The amount of freight paid during 1948, 1949 and 1950 is as follows:

1948	15.52	crores
1949	14.14	"
1950	8.33	"

Shri Sidhva: May I know why the information regarding the charges paid to the Port Trusts is not readily available? They must be available in the statistics maintained in the Food Ministry which show the total expenditure incurred in the handling of grains at the ports.

Shri K. M. Munshi: It is not considered necessary to maintain detailed accounts for every individual item of expenditure. I have therefore to collect the information regarding the Port Trust charges paid in respect of every single consignment.

Shri Sidhva: Was any concession given by the Port Trusts in view of the large quantities of food imported by the Government of India for essential purposes?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I am not aware. I will make enquiries.

Shri Sidhva: After ascertaining whether Government have paid the full amount, will they ask the Port Trusts to give them the concession?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Hussain Imam: What part of the freight was paid to Indian registered companies and what part to foreign companies?

Shri K. M. Munshi: So far as freight is concerned it is generally paid by the administration which receives the goods. The information will require considerable time to gather.

Shri Sidhva: The freight paid in 1950 is said to be 8.33 crores as against 14.14 crores in 1949. Am I to understand that the quantity received in 1950 was less than in the previous year?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The import was less and that is how our troubles began last year. The imports last year were much less than the imports of the previous year and my hon. friend himself has complained about it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

COST OF ADVERTISING

*4387. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total cost on account of advertisement incurred by his Ministry in the years 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 for which Government had to make payments inter-departmentally and also state the cost of the Government Gazettes, in connection with Railway Ministry's notifications?

(b) What was the total cost in 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 of periodical publications issued directly by his Ministry?

(c) What was the total of charges in 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 for exhibition of Railway notices?

(d) What was the revenue derived in the years 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 by his Ministry from private advertisement?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a)

Cost incurred by Indian Railways on account of advertisements was:

	Rs.
1948-49	12,97,952
1949-50	19,15,191
1950-51	12,21,686

No debit is raised against Ministry of Railways for this Ministry's notifications published in the Gazette of India.

(b) Cost of periodical publications issued by Indian Railways and the Railway Board was:

	Rs.
1948-49	12,51,400
1949-50	14,78,595
1950-51	12,25,327

(c) Cost of exhibition of Railway notices was:

	Rs.
1948-49	1,848
1949-50	4,780
1950-51	1,999

(d) Revenue derived from private advertisements was:

	Rs.
1948-49	7,85,043
1949-50	8,72,880
1950-51	11,68,846

COST OF ADVERTISING

*4388. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the total cost of advertisement incurred by the Ministry of Transport in the years 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 for which Government had to pay inter-departmentally and also state the cost of Government Gazettes in connection with notifications issued by the Ministry?

(b) What was the cost incurred in the years 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 of periodical publications issued by the Ministry?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) No advertisement necessitating inter-departmental adjustment of expenditure was issued by the Ministry of Transport during the years referred to. The following expenditure was incurred on advertisement placed directly in newspapers:

	Rs.
1948-49	1552
1949-50	Rs. 2870-9-0
1950-51	Rs. 5750.

No payment is involved in respect of the cost of notifications issued by the Ministry of Transport in the Gazette of India.

(b) The Ministry of Transport do not put out any periodical publications. But, certain pamphlets, guide books etc. have been issued for the promotion of tourist traffic.

COST OF ADVERTISING

*4389. Prof. K. T. Shah: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what was the total cost of advertising incurred by the Ministry in the years 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 for which Government had to make payments inter-departmentally, as also of Government Gazettes in connection with the notifications of his Ministry?

(b) What was the total cost of periodical or other publications issued by his Ministry during the same period?

(c) What was the total of those charges during the same period for exhibiting public notices of the Ministry?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). I lay on the Table of the House a statement giving the information.

STATEMENT

	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51
(a)	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b)	Rs. 1,40,273	Rs. 83,764	Rs. 25,215
(c)	Rs. 1,398	Rs. 18,837	Rs. 5,818

CENTRAL COCONUT COMMITTEE

*4390. Shri Rudrappa: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total budget of the Central Coconut Committee for the year 1950-51?

(b) What is the amount spent for the improvement of coconut cultivation in the year 1950-51?

(c) How many Central Coconut Research stations have been started and what is the amount spent on these research institutions in the year 1950-51?

(d) Does the Committee intend to start any coconut research institution in Mysore State and if not, what action has been taken by the Committee to improve coconut cultivation of Mysore State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The total budget of the Indian Central Coconut Committee for the year 1950-51 was Rs. 9,86,000.

(b) There are no separate figures to show the amount spent exclusively for the improvement of coconut cultivation. However, a sum of Rs. 4,46,000 was actually spent by the Committee during the year 1950-51 which *inter alia* includes expenses on Administration, Research etc.

(c) Two Central Coconut Research Stations have so far been started and a sum of Rs. 2,42,000 was spent on them during the year 1950-51.

(d) Yes, the matter will be considered if the Mysore Government comes up with any such proposal.

FOOD FROM ABROAD

*4391. Prof. S. L. Saksena: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of food which the various countries in the world have promised to supply to India in the year 1951-52;

(b) the total amount of food for which firm contracts have been made with each of the various countries and the terms thereof; and

(c) the comparative cost of various kinds of food from the various countries?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (b). Plans for food imports are drawn up by calendar years. Firm purchases made in 1951 to date including the carryover of unshipped quantities purchased in 1950 are shown in the attached Statement. [See Appendix XXV annexure No. 49.] Negotiations for further purchases are in hand.

The bulk of wheat and flour has been purchased under the International Wheat Agreement. With the exception of wheat from Argentine and U.S.S.R. and some rice from China and Burma purchases have been made on direct cash payment basis.

(c) The present estimate of the average c. and f. cost of foodgrains is as under:

Wheat	Rs. 14-14-0 per md. in bulk.
Flour	Rs. 20-4-0 per md. in bags.
Rice (fine)	Rs. 25-12-0 per md. in bags
Rice (coarse)	Rs. 21-15-0 per md. in bags.
Brokens	Rs. 18-10-0 per md. in bags.
Milo	Rs. 10-8-0 per md. in bags.

It will not be desirable to disclose the comparative cost of various kinds of foodgrains from the various countries.

WHEAT AND RICE UNDER INDO-PAKISTAN TRADE AGREEMENT

*4392. Shri Sidhva: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how much quantity of rice and wheat has actually arrived in India under the recent Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement?

(b) What is the balance to be supplied and within what period?

(c) Did Pakistan offer inferior quality of rice or wheat?

(d) If so, what was the quantity and was the same rejected or accepted by India?

(e) Is the delay in shipping due to non-availability of freight or other causes?

(f) Was the rejected rice or wheat replaced by good quality of rice or wheat?

(g) What quality of rice was agreed upon under the Indo-Pakistan agreement?

(h) How does the amount for payment to India and Pakistan for goods received and sent under the said Agreement adjusted?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) 51,313 tons of rice was received by 15th May, 1951.

(b) 1,08,087 tons upto 30th June, 1951, 99,000 tons upto 31st December, 1951 and 4,25,000 tons upto 31st October, 1952.

(c) and (d). 6,600 tons of Baluchistan rice was offered on "as is where is" ex godown basis. This quantity on inspection was found to be inferior in quality and was rejected.

About 8,000 tons of Sind red and Nara rice was found to be heavily weevilid. 2,800 tons of this quality has been shipped and about 5,000 tons remains to be shipped. Negotiations in respect of this are in progress.

(e) There is no delay in shipment.

(f) No. The agreement did not provide for replacement.

(g) 24,000 tons of rice from East Pakistan, 6,600 tons of rice from Baluchistan and 800 tons of rice from West Punjab was to be supplied on "as is where is" ex godown basis as regards quality and the Government of India had the right to reject these quantities if they found the quality to be unacceptable. The balance quantity of rice from Sind was offered on the basis of fair average quality of the crop.

(h) This grain is being purchased for cash.

CULTIVABLE RAILWAY LAND

*4393. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer given to my Starred Question No. 736 asked on 107 P. S. Deb.

7th December 1950, regarding cultivable Railway land and state:

(a) whether the list of surplus cultivable Railway land belonging to B.N., G.I.P., and Assam Railways have been furnished to the State Governments concerned;

(b) if so, how much area has been allotted and to whom; and

(c) how much money crop and food crop are expected from those areas this year and next year?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (b). Complete lists are not yet ready and the Railway Administrations are taking action in regard to the allotment of lands to the States for purposes of cultivation. The B. N. and Assam Railways have already made available to the State Governments 2,577 and 1071 acres respectively. A statement giving the detailed State-wise distribution is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Allotment of these lands to cultivators is made by the State Governments and this information is not available with the Central Government

STATEMENT

The area leased out to the various State Governments by the B. N. and Assam Railways.

B. N. Railway—	(acres)
West Bengal,	265
Bihar,	1,118
Orissa,	1,008
Madras,	198
Madhya Pradesh,	3
Total,	2,577
Assam Railway—	
West Bengal,	947
Bihar,	124
	1,071
Grand Total	3,648

COMMUNICATIONS WORKS

*4394. **Shri J. N. Hazarika:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state when will the following works be taken up and completed—

(i) laying submarine cables across the Brahmaputra between Gauhati and North Gauhati; and

(ii) laying local end cables from Gauhati Telegraph Office to Gauhati Carrier?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kijwal): (i) and (ii). Both these works are scheduled to be taken up and completed during the current financial year.

TELEGRAPH LINES

*4395. Shri J. N. Hazarika: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the construction of telegraph line between Aijah and Lungleh in Lushai Hills has been started?

(b) If so, how long will it take to complete?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kijwal): (a) and (b). In 1949, a project for constructing a land line between Lungleh and Aijah was prepared. In view of the difficult country through which the lines were to be constructed, that project has been abandoned. Instead, it has been decided to establish a wireless link between Gauhati and Lungleh. It should be ready by September, 1951.

POLITICAL PENSIONS

*4396. Shri Raj Kanwar: Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether any political pensions have been (i) newly sanctioned, or (ii) discontinued since the 15th August, 1947;

(b) if so, the brief particulars thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is proposed to notify the creation and discontinuance of such pensions in the *Gazette of India*?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) to (c). No new political pensions have been sanctioned after the 15th August, 1947. The Government of India are now conducting a review of all political pensions paid from Central Revenues and a statement of the action taken will be placed on the Table of the House when the review is completed.

CENTRAL ROAD FUND

*4397. Shri M. Nalk: (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the amount of money at the credit of the Central Road Fund at the end of the last financial year?

(b) What is the basis of allocations made out of the fund to different States?

(c) What are the proposed State-wise allocations to the States for the current year?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Rs. 830 lakhs roughly.

(b) Consumption of taxed motor spirit other than motor spirit used in aviation, in the various States during the calendar year ending during the financial year concerned, in accordance with para. §(1)(b) of the Resolution on Road Development.

(c) Allocations for the revenue earned in the current year will be known in the second half of 1952-53, as the revenue for the current year cannot be determined till its accounts are closed.

VILLAGE POST OFFICES IN MADRAS

*4398. Shri R. Subramanian: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total number of village post-offices and village Postmasters working therein at present in Madras State?

(b) How many of such post offices are located in Scheduled Castes areas and how many of the village Postmasters belong to the Scheduled Castes?

(c) How is the appointment made and what are the requisite qualifications for being appointed as a Postmaster?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kijwal): (a) 7,725 Extra-Departmental post offices and an equal number of Extra-Departmental Branch and Sub-Postmasters.

(b) 128 and 77 respectively.

(c) Extra-Departmental Postmasters are selected from amongst local residents—school teachers, local Board employees, Station Masters, Retired Government servants—of the places where the offices are situated. The essential qualifications are that they should possess independent means of income and be capable of performing the post office work.

VILLAGE POST OFFICES

*4399. Shri R. Subramanian: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total number of applications received from Madras State for opening new village post-offices in the years 1949-50 and 1950-51, and how many of them were complied with in each of those years?

(b) How many applications are now pending with Government for opening new post-offices in the villages?

(c) What is the number of post-offices in the rural parts of Madras State to be opened in this year?

(d) What is the total number of villages with a population of 2000 and above that are in need of post offices?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) Applications received 1174 in 1949-50 and 1802 in 1950-51. Applications complied with 613 in 1949-50 and 1739 in 1950-51.

(b) 775.

(c) 149. But if more funds become available all the villages with a population of 2,000 and above will be provided with a post office.

(d) 349.

ARANTANGI-KARUIKUDI RAILWAY LINE

***4400. Shri R. Subramanian:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the progress of work so far carried out in the construction of the railway line from Arantangi to Karuikudi?

(b) How long will it take for its completion?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) The progress so far made on main items of work is as follows:

Formation	10 per cent.
Major bridges	65 per cent.
Minor bridges	25 per cent.

(b) The line is expected to be opened to traffic in December, 1951.

DIPLOMA AND DEGREE COURSES IN AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

***4401. Shri V. K. Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the basis of selection of students for the Diploma and Degree courses conducted by the I.C.A.R. in Agricultural Statistics?

(b) What was the number of students selected during the year 1950-51?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Selection of candidates for admission to the post-graduate Certificate and Diploma Courses in Agricultural Statistics is made on merit by the Vice-President, Indian Council of Agricultural Research on the recommendations of the Statistical Adviser of the Council. The minimum qualifications required for admission to the Certificate Course is a Degree of a recognised University with Mathematics as a major subject. Graduates in Economics, Agriculture and Veterinary Science with special aptitude for Mathematics are also eligible. For Diploma Course candidates should have successfully completed the

Certificate Course or possess the M.A. or M.Sc., Degree in Statistics.

(b) Certificate Course—Twenty.

Diploma Course—Seven.

Applicational Course—Eleven.

WASTE-LAND RECLAMATION PROJECT

***4402. Shri P. Basi Reddi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Bank is not satisfied with the progress Government are making with their seven-year waste-land Reclamation Project in the Central India:

(b) if so, the provisions, if any, of the loan Agreement, enforced or proposed to be enforced, against the Government;

(c) whether Government have received the report of Mr. Connors, the Technical Expert deputed by the bank; and

(d) if so, what are the defects pointed out in the report and what are the recommendations made for their rectifications?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) There has been satisfactory progress of the scheme in some respects and in others the Bank has suggested certain improvements, which were already being considered by Government. For example, arrangements for obtaining the services of a qualified engineer have already been completed. Action has also been taken to demarcate sufficiently large and compact blocks of land. These arrangements will be finalised at a Conference of the Ministers for Agriculture of the States concerned on 23rd May.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.

(d) The report is a confidential document. The main recommendations relate to employment of engineers and availability of land. The Government had been already considering these and action has been initiated and completed in certain respects. I might mention that during this year by the end of the season, the Central Tractor Organisation will have completed the target of reclamation of 2,75,000 acres of land.

ABOLITION OF RURAL RATIONING IN MADRAS

***4403. Shri P. Basi Reddi:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there has been an abnormal increase in the prices of foodstuffs in the deficit districts of the Madras

State as a result of the abolition of rural rationing?

(b) If so, what steps have Government taken to arrest the increase in, and bring down the prices?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Since derationing there has been an increase in the market prices of food-grains in the derationed areas.

(b) Government are opening fair price shops from which foodgrains are issued to essential personnel, non-producers and partial producers at controlled rates.

B.B. AND C.I. RAILWAY METRE GAUGE SECTION (FARES)

*4404. **Thakur Lal Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the B.B. and C.I. Railway Metre Gauge section ordinary third class fare is charged at the rate of five pies per mile and is calculated to the next higher anna resulting in that the charge for five miles is annas three and for 10 miles annas five?

(b) Was this practice introduced during the war time on account of scarcity of small coins, nickel and copper?

(c) Have Government received any representation requesting for the reversion of the old system of calculating to the nearest pice?

(d) What action do Government propose to take in this direction and what are the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes, as on other Railways.

(b) The present rule for rounding off of passenger fares, which is applicable uniformly on all Railways, was introduced from 1st January, 1948.

(c) Yes, representations have been received requesting for a reversion to the old system of calculating fares in force on some of the Railways.

(d) Government have decided not to change the rule for rounding off of fares in force at present as besides ensuring uniformity it has proved of considerable help in expeditious calculation of fares and issue of tickets to passengers.

AIRWAYS (INDIA) LTD. (INQUIRY COMMITTEE)

*4405. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 4058 on the 11th May, 1951 and to state:

(a) the number of officers and staff of Airways (India) Ltd., against whom

the Committee of Inquiry has held that they were guilty of gross negligence or carelessness;

(b) whether it is a fact that this was not the first occasion that the company aircraft had carried acids or other dangerous chemicals on this route;

(c) the reasons for not taking any action whatever against the officers and staff held guilty by the Inquiry Committee; and

(d) whether it is a fact that copies of the Committee's report have been refused to those relatives of the victims who wish to move for compensation?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) The report mentions the Booking Section of the Company but does not give the names or number of officers and staff.

(b) On a previous occasion acids were carried by this company. So the Controller of Aeronautical Inspection, Calcutta issued a general circular to all airlines on the steps to be taken to control the shipment of such dangerous chemicals by air, and this company issued similar instructions.

(c) As recommended by the investigation officers, the question of taking legal action against the company was examined. It was found that the company had not violated any law and no prosecution could be instituted.

(d) No, Sir. Copies of the report have been supplied to those who asked for it.

RAILWAY FARES (CONCESSIONS)

*4406. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the answer given to my supplementary question on Starred Question No. 4050 asked on the 11th May, 1951 and state:

(a) whether any concessions in Railway fares are granted to foreign tourists in general, and in particular to officers of foreign Governments, foreign delegates to Conferences in India, and to those sponsored by or who are members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union or of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Union; and

(b) if so, what those concessions are?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) No concessions in fares are granted to foreign tourists in general or to officers of foreign Governments in particular or to members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union or of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Union or delegates to conferences in India.

sponsored by the Inter-Parliamentary or the Commonwealth Parliamentary Union for that matter. Foreign delegates attending certain conferences held in India, have, however, been granted concessions in rail fares on an *ad hoc* basis.

(b) Usually return tickets on payment of single fares or single journey tickets on payment of half single journey fares or fares for the next lower class.

VERIFICATION OF CLAIMS BY PAKISTAN

320. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how far the verification by the Pakistan Government of claims of displaced persons in respect of Postal Saving Accounts and cash Certificates has progressed;

(b) whether any claims have been paid so far by the Government of Pakistan; and

(c) if so, how many, the total value thereof and the total value of claims still outstanding?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) Since the devaluation of Indian Currency in September, 1949, the Pakistan Government has put a ban on transfers of Post Office Savings Bank Accounts and Certificates from Pakistan to India. The representatives of Pakistan Government in the June, 1950 Conference agreed to resume such transfers but this item of the agreement has not so far been implemented by that Government. The matter is still under correspondence between the Governments of India and Pakistan.

(b) Under the procedure evolved for settlement of such claims, the Pakistan or the Indian Government have not to pay the amount of the Post Office Savings Bank Accounts or Certificates immediately with the transfers. According to the agreement between the two countries the transfer is effected by the country where the Savings Bank Account or Certificate stands and the country where it is transferred makes the payment on behalf of the transferring country. The amount involved is adjusted between the two countries, either through debt settlement or by subsequent recovery. Transfers of Savings Bank Accounts applied for and postal certificates transferred upto 31st March, 1948 are adjusted through the debt settlement. Transfers of Savings Bank Accounts applied for between 1st April, 1948 and 31st March, 1949

and of postal certificates applied for upto 30th June, 1949 are adjusted by subsequent recovery which has not yet been effected.

(c) Approximately 88,500 cases of transfers in this manner in respect of Post Office Savings Bank Accounts and Certificates amounting to Rs. 4.21 crores have been effected by Pakistan. Claims to the value of Rs. 3.65 crores are still pending transfer from Pakistan.

POLITICAL PENSIONS

321. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to place on the Table of the House a statement showing the political pensions payable by Government as a liability which has devolved on Government from the previous Government, indicating in each case the amount payable in perpetuity or for life or for a specified period?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the replies given to.

(i) **Shri Mohan Lal Saksena's** Starred Question No. 580 answered on the 3rd December, 1947;

(ii) **Shri Sidhva's** Starred Question No. 641 answered on the 5th December, 1950; and

(iii) **Shri Kamath's** Starred Question No. 2289 answered on the 16th March, 1951.

TRAIN-HALT STATIONS

322. **Shri R. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some of the train-halt stations in S. I. R. stations were abolished at the time of last World War?

(b) If so, how many such stations were abolished?

(c) How many of them were re-started?

(d) Is there any proposal to re-start the remaining stations, if so, when and if not, why not?

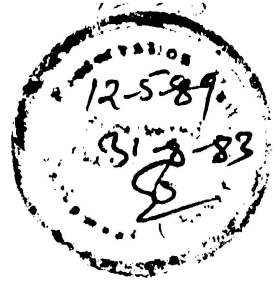
The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes.

(b) 53.

(c) 31.

(d) Out of the remaining 22 halt stations, it has been decided to reopen one shortly. Two others are likely to be reopened next year. The question of restoring the other 19 halt stations is also now under consideration of the Railway.

Tuesday, 22nd May, 1951



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

Third Session

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950-51

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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers.)
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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Tuesday, 22nd May, 1951

The House met at Half Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-30 A.M.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT *re.* MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to lay on the Table a supplementary statement to the Consolidated statement showing the meetings of the Standing Committees attached to various Ministries, and subjects discussed at such meetings during the year 1950-51. [See Appendix XXV, Annexure No. 50.]

ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SITES AND REMAINS (DECLARATION OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE) BILL.

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to declare certain ancient and historical monuments and archæological sites and remains in Part A States and Part B States to be of national importance and to provide for certain matters connected therewith.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to declare certain ancient and historical monuments and archæological sites and remains in Part A States and Part

B States to be of national importance and to provide for certain matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Kidwai: I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Santhanam: I introduce the Bill.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): May I, Sir, with your permission, ask the question which you promised to allow me to put when Mr. Munshi returned? The original question related to fertilizers and it was stated the matter was pending before the Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker: He may send that question to me and the hon. Minister will reply in due course.

Shri Sidhva: I cannot get any satisfactory information.

Mr. Speaker: But he cannot ask it all of a sudden.

Shri Sidhva: But last time when I put it to the Deputy Minister I could get no information.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, the hon. Member will put it on paper, stating in specific terms what he wants to

know. Then if that question is a proper one and admissible I will certainly admit it and the hon. Minister will make it a point to answer it.

Shri Sidhva: But it should take the form of a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: No, no. A supplementary question to an original question cannot be put now.

Shri Sidhva: But he will only say it is under consideration.

Mr. Speaker: No, no. He knows the procedure.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(NO. 2) BILL—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker: Now, as regards the Representation of the People (No. 2) Bill, I understand it is the general desire of Members that they meet informally and discuss the amendments to that Bill with the hon. Minister of Law. So, if the Members are generally agreeable to this I have no objection to adjourn now so that the whole House may sit informally and discuss the amendments with the hon. Law Minister, and we may meet again tomorrow morning at 8-30.

Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Then there is one more point. That is that some confusion used to be created on account of amendments coming in from day to day and supplementary lists being issued. Now, for the convenience

of hon. Members all the amendments received and undisposed of till yesterday have been printed as Consolidated List No. 2.

Maulvi Wajed Ali (Assam): We have not got copies.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member will get copies. I am just making an announcement—he need not be in a hurry. Copies will be distributed to them and in case some do not get them they may kindly inform the office and get the copies.

Shri Hussain Imam (Bihar): Before we adjourn, Sir, may I invite your attention to the fact that Government have made no announcement regarding the consideration of the Constitution (First Amendment) Bill? I should like the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs to enlighten the House as to the line which he proposes to take in this matter during the week.

Mr. Speaker: I think it is too early to put that question. The report of the Select Committee is to come tomorrow. Let it come and then it will be proper to put a question as to what the programme will be. Today we do not know whether the report may be coming or not coming tomorrow. It may be that the Committee may ask for extension of time.

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): It is quite likely that we may ask for extension of a day or two.

The House then adjourned till Half Past Eight of the Clock on Wednesday, the 23rd May, 1951.