

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The bases of fares and freight rates applicable over the Fatehpur-Churu Section are the standard fares and freight rates in force over the Indian Government Railways. The distance for charge over the Section has, however, been inflated by 100 per cent.

(d) The inflation of distance has been adopted with a view to securing economic return on the capital outlay.

Wheels for Bullock Carts

***817. Shri Chandak:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 768 on the 10th March, 1960 and state:

(a) whether a decision has since been taken regarding import of second hand wheel assemblies from the U.S.A. for bullock carts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if reply to part (a) be in the negative, the reasons for delay; and

(d) what are the findings of the experiments carried out with ball bearings fitted on wooden bullock cart wheels?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). A few samples of second hand wheel assemblies are being obtained from America for testing and determining the suitability of wheels of different sizes for use on bullock carts. A decision on the question of import of 10,000 wheel assemblies will be taken after these samples have been received and tested.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Investigations carried out some time ago by the Bullock Cart Subcommittee of the Indian Roads Con-

gress showed that use of ball bearings on iron tyred wooden wheels would reduce the tractive effort, but the ball bearings would make the wheels rigid, preventing any play on the axle. This would increase the impact at every obstacle on the road surface like a depression, pot hole or a high spot. This is not harmful in a pneumatic tyre which is capable of adjusting itself to irregularities in the road surface, but a rigid iron tyred wooden wheel has no such properties. Due to the rigidity in the alignment of the wheel, the iron tyre would often have contact only at its edge on the uneven road surface resulting in cutting of the road surface.

The Central Road Research Institute has been requested to carry out further investigations regarding the feasibility of fitting ball bearings on iron tyred wooden wheels without any resultant bad effects and the details are being worked out by the Institute.

Agricultural Commission

***818.** { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri A. M. Tariq:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Inder J. Malhotra:
Shri Ansar Harvani:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 415 on the 26th February, 1960 and state at what stage is the question of appointing an Agricultural Commission with a view to survey all aspects of agriculture?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): The matter is still under consideration.

Pochampad Project

***819.** { **Shri Rami Reddy:**
Shri Madhusudan Rao:
Shri Venkatasubbaiah:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply