

situation has improved much on this account. Arrangements for deputing special police force were made after the year 1947 when too many accidents and assaults on people were reported. For eliminating such incidents Railway Protection Police was deputed. They did a lot of work and the incidents soon stopped.]

श्री जांगड़े : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि रेलवे विभाग ने चोरी होने वाली वस्तुओं के बदले में उन वस्तुओं के मालिकों को कितना रुपया हरजाने के रूप में दिया है ?

[Shri Jangde: Will the hon. Minister please state the amount of money that has been paid by the Railway Department as damages to the persons who lost their goods as a result of train thefts and robberies?]

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री : रकम तो वैसे बतलाना मुमकिन नहीं है लेकिन अगर माननीय सदस्य कोई सवाल पूछें तो उस का जबाब दिया जायगा ।

[Shri L. B. Shastri: It is not possible to state the amount of money so paid, but if the hon. Member asks some other question it would be answered.]

Jonab Amjad Ali: May I know the chief *modus operandi* of these robberies and thefts in the railway trains?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It will be too long an answer and it is not in the public interest to give it.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: May I know in how many cases were the offenders caught, tried and convicted?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I cannot give the exact number, but perhaps in a very large number of cases persons have been caught and convicted.

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

ऋतु अनुसन्धान वेधशालाएं

*२४१. श्री बाल्मीकी : क्या संघरज मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अण्डमान और निकोबार टापुओं में कितनी ऋतु अनुसन्धान वेधशालाएं स्थापित की जा रही हैं और किन किन स्थानों पर ;

(ख) उन में से कितनी तैयार हो चुकी हैं ; तथा

(ग) उन में से प्रत्येक पर कितना व्यय होने का अनुमान है ?

WEATHER RESEARCH OBSERVATORIES

[*241. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many Weather Research Observatories are being installed in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and at what places;

(b) how many of them are already ready; and

(c) what is the estimated expenditure to be incurred on each of them?]

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Ten; seven surface observatories one each at Port Blair, Car Nicobar, Kundal, Nancowrie, Table Island, Maya Bunder and Long Island; two pilot balloon observatories at Port Blair and Car Nicobar; and one Radio sonde observatory at Port Blair.

(b) All except the pilot balloon observatory at Car Nicobar.

(c) I lay on the Table a statement giving the information.

STATEMENT

The estimated expenditure in setting up and operating each of the different types of observatories is:—

	Non-recurring	Recurring
	Ra.	Ra.
Surface observatory	1,500	1,700
Pilot balloon observatory	5,500	31,600
Radio sonde observatory	6,000	35,000

श्री बाल्मीकी : क्या सरकार इस प्रकार की और वेधशालाएँ भी खोलना चाहती है, यदि हाँ, तो किन किन स्थानों पर ?

[Shri Balmiki: Do the Government intend to open more such observatories in the country; if so, at what places?]

श्री जगजीवन राम : इस तरह की वेधशालायें तो मुल्क में हैं और अभी उनको ज्यादा बढ़ाने का कोई भी प्रस्ताव सरकार के सामने नहीं है।

[Shri Jagjivan Ram: Such observatories are already existing in the country; and the Government have no proposal before them for increasing their number at present.]

खाद्यान्न का आयात

*२४२. श्री बाल्मीकी : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मई १९५१ से मई १९५२ तक के काल में भारत में किन किन देशों से खाद्यान्न मंगाया गया ;

(ख) इस काल में कितने खाद्यान्न का आयात किया गया ; तथा

(ग) इस काल में विदेशों से खाद्यान्न मंगाने के लिए भारत सरकार को कितना रुपया खर्च करना पड़ा था ?

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

[*242. Shri Balmiki: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) from what countries foodgrains were imported in India during the period from May, 1951 to May, 1952;

(b) what quantity of foodgrains was imported during the said period; and

(c) what expenditure the Government of India had to incur in importing the foodgrains from foreign countries during the said period?]

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) During the 12 months May, 1951 to April, 1952 foodgrains were imported from:—

- (1) Australia.
- (2) U.S.A.
- (3) Canada.
- (4) Argentine.
- (5) Russia.
- (6) Burma.
- (7) Thailand.
- (8) Egypt.
- (9) China and
- (10) Pakistan.

(b) 5.4 million tons.

(c) Complete accounts of payments made have not yet been received but on the basis of information available, the cost is likely to be about 254.7 crores of rupees.

श्री बाल्मीकी : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि बाहर से आये हुये अन्न की प्रति देश के अनुसार प्रति मन क्या क्या कीमतें हैं ?

[Shri Balmiki: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the price per maund of foodgrains, imported from abroad, country-wise?]

Shri Karmarkar: I have not got the information ready at hand. If the hon. Member puts down a question, I shall give the answer.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether there has been a complaint that certain deficit States are having their quota mostly from imported foodgrains and that they have to pay a higher price, and that they are not allowed a proportionate quantity from locally procured foodgrains?

Shri Karmarkar: Distribution inland, I am afraid, does not arise out of this question. If it does, I want notice.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know the quantity of rice imported from Burma and Thailand as compared with the previous year? Does it show an improvement? How do the prices compare with the prices paid last year?

Shri Karmarkar: I have the figures for actual import of rice from Burma and Thailand. From Burma, the quantity is 349,861 tons. The price paid was Rs. 20,75,07,664. From Thailand, the quantity is 188,559 tons and the price paid was Rs. 10,71,27,771. As to how these compare with the last year, I should like to have notice.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if the prices of the imported foodgrains were lower or higher than the prices of the foodgrains available in this country?

Shri Karmarkar: I think my hon. friend knows that the average price of imported foodgrains is higher than the Indian prices.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: If the prices are higher, may I know why the Government do not propose to increase the prices of foodgrains here?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.