

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Rs. 8,17,72,566.

(b) Yes.

(c) The fall in income was due to a decline in traffic; the increase in expenditure was mainly due to additional expenditure resulting from the implementation of the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act.

(d) The Port charges on certain commodities were increased with effect from the 1st June, 1954.

FARM DEVELOPMENT

*521. Shri B. N. Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to sponsor a programme of Farm Development with the help of the Government of U.S.A.;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in the matter; and

(c) the main features of the programme?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

परासिया कोयले की खान

*५२२. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या भ्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में परासिया कोयले की खान में से अब तक कितनी लाखों निकली हैं ; और

(ख) क्षतिपूर्ति के रूप में अब तक कितनी राशि दी गई है ?

भ्रम मंत्री (श्री खंडर्भाई इंदार): (क)

५०।

(ख) लोक-सभा के सामने एक विवरण प्रस्तुत किया जाता है। [दीर्घाचर परिशिष्ट २ अनुबन्ध संख्या ४०]

TRANSPORT OF MAILS OVER PIRPANJAL

*523. Chaudhri Muhammed Shafiq: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons usually employed for carrying mails over Pirpanjal (Banihal Pass) in Jammu and Kashmir State during the Winter season;

(b) the number of staff injured in the accidents on this route during the past two years;

(c) the facilities provided to the staff; and

(d) the compensation paid to the relations of those either injured or killed in snow storms during the past two years?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Mails are not conveyed departmentally but by an outside contractor—Messrs. Radha Kishan Co. Generally 30 to 40 mazdoors are employed by the contractor when the pass is covered by snow. Each mazdoor carries a load of 20 seers.

(b) The contractor has intimated that there has not been any casualty or accident during the last two years.

(c) and (d). Does not arise as the work is not done departmentally. The responsibility is that of the contractor.

COTTON

*524. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for increasing the production of cotton during 1954; and

(b) the amount spent on this account during the above period?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha, [See Appendix III, annexure No. 41].