

and or Local Board authorities. No final decision has so far been reached with regard to the construction of any of these road over-bridges.

(c) This can be taken in hand only after the Punjab Government allot funds for covering their share of the cost of this overbridge.

### Railway Wagons

\*1757. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to tarred Question No. 1212 on the 30th August, 1955 and state:

(a) whether the prices of Railway wagons supplied by Indian firms are higher than the imported ones;

(b) if so, the difference between the two; and

(c) the attempts, if any, made to reduce the prices of wagons supplied by Indian firms?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) No.

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

### Casual Workmen in Cochin Port

\*1758. **Shri Punnoose:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the great discontentment amongst the casual workmen employed in the Cochin Port about insecurity of their employment;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the Port Workers' Union in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken to redress the grievances of the workers?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) No.

(b) and (c). Yes; the representation relates to 40 casual workers who were discharged on completion of the works on which they were employed. There is, however, a satisfactory scheme in operation at the port for the re-employment of discharged workers on the new port development works.

### Drought Condition in West Bengal

\*1759. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the shortfall in the production of crops on account of drought conditions in West Bengal in 1954; and

(b) its value?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jais):** (a) According to the final forecasts for 1954-55 now available and compared to production of 1953-54, the shortfall in crop production in West Bengal in 1954-55 is as follows:—

|             |       |                  |
|-------------|-------|------------------|
| Rice        | . . . | 14.68 lakh tons. |
| Jute        | , . . | 33,200 bales.    |
| Misc. crops | . . . | 3 lakh tons.     |

(b) The value of the above shortfall is Rs. 66.63 crores.

Of this loss at least 75% is estimated to be due to drought.

### Beam Wireless Station, Poona

\*1760. **Shri P. L. Kureel:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Technical Assistants in Beam Wireless Station, Poona at present; and

(b) how many of them belong to the Scheduled Castes?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Twenty three.

(b) One.

### जिप्सियों (यायावरों) का पुनर्वास

\*१७६१. **श्री भक्त बर्दान :** क्या खाद्य और कृषि मंत्री ७ अप्रैल, १९५५ को दिये गये तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या २०३५ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या जिप्सियों के बसाने के बारे में तब से कोई अन्तिम निर्णय किया गया है; और