

into the claim of Chhapara, a town in Seoni District of Madhya Pradesh, a prominent commercial town in the area for opening an out-agency?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):

(a) The factors generally taken into consideration in this connection are the commercial importance of the town, its population, the distance between the town and the nearest rail-head and the possibility of securing a suitable contractor.

(b) Yes, the offer for working the Out-Agency at Chhapara was made to the Madhya Pradesh State Transport Services, but the proposal was dropped as there was no response from them.

The South Eastern Railway is, however, examining the matter afresh.

Discontinuance of Seoni Ganj Siding on S. E. Railway

355. Shri Wadiwa: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Seoni Ganj siding at Railway Station Seoni on Nagpur-Nainpur section of South Eastern Railway has been discontinued with effect from 15th April, 1962;

(b) what are the reasons for discontinuing the siding; and

(c) the figures of amount earned for the years 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961 on account of this siding?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The amount earned on siding charges in 1961 is approximately Rs. 2400. The figures for other years are not readily available and are being compiled.

Import of Foodstuff

356. Shri J. P. Jyotishi: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and cost of food-stuffs imported during the year 1961-62;

(b) the quantity and cost of the same purchased by Government from indigenous market;

(c) how much of it and for how much amount has the same been sold to the public during the same year; and

(d) what is the Government stock in balance and the expected deficiency to be met by imports during the year?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) About 3.2 million metric tons of foodgrains costing about Rs. 120 crores.

(b) About 324 thousand metric tons of rice costing about Rs. 15.61 crores.

(c) It is not possible to say how much out of the 1961-62 supplies was sold but the approximate quantities of wheat, rice and other foodgrains issued from Central stocks during the financial year 1961-62 were as follows:—

	(In '000 Metric Tons)
Wheat	2,858
Rice	686
Other foodgrains	34
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Total	3,578
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The value of the quantity of wheat issued was approximately Rs. 107 crores and that of Milo issued about Rs. 1 crore. It is not possible at this stage to give a correct estimate of the value of the quantity of rice issued from Central stocks, as the issue prices of rice vary from Rs. 16 to Rs. 30 per maund according to the quality of rice.

(d) The Government of India held a reserve stock of about 2.1 million metric tons of foodgrains at the end of March, 1962. Imports during the financial year 1962-63 are expected to be about 4 million metric tons. This