

imported during 1951 under Barter Agreements.

Kind	Quantity '000 tons
Wheat	612
Rice	359

It will not be in the public interest to disclose the value of these commodities just at present.

(b) Hessian, Jute, Shellac, Tobacco, Tea and Gunnies.

(c) Yes. A wheat for rice barter deal has been entered into with Pakistan. The Government of India will supply 39,700 tons of wheat in exchange for 37,700 tons of rice to be supplied by Pakistan.

GANGA BRIDGE

*1293. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Visvesvaraya Committee which set up to report about the location of a rail road bridge on the river Ganga has submitted its report;

(b) what are the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether the report has been considered by Government;

(d) whether the recommendations have been accepted;

(e) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to give effect to the recommendations; and

(f) what will be the estimated expenditure involved in giving effect to the recommendations?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) A Press Communique on the recommendations made by Dr. M. Visvesvaraya was issued on 11th June and was published in all the leading Newspapers on 12th June, 1952. A copy of the Communique is being laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 39].

(c) The Report is under consideration.

(d) and (e). Do not arise at present.

(f) According to the estimate prepared in 1948 a combined rail-road bridge at Mokameh Ghat was estimated to cost Rs. 12.3 crores. The estimate will need revision according to current prices and in the light of any modifications, that may be made in the Design.

MADHUPUR AND-GIRDH RAILWAY STATION

275. Shri N. P. Sinha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to extend the Railway line from Girdih and to connect it with the Grand Chord Line at Kodarma?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The reply is in the negative.

NEW RAILWAY LINES IN CHHOTA NAGPUR

276. Shri N. P. Sinha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many miles of new Railway lines are proposed to be laid in Chhota Nagpur in Bihar during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): None during 1952-53. The programme of new line constructions for 1953-54 has not yet been prepared.

KHANDWA-HINGOLI RAILWAY LINE

277. Shri G. B. Khedkar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was made to construct a new Railway Line from Khandwa to Hingoli via Akot-Akola-Basim; and

(b) if so, when the actual work will begin?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) The project is at present being re-examined by the Western Railway. It is not possible at this stage to state when actually construction work will begin.

BILASPUR-NAGPUR RAILWAY SECTION

278. Shri Kirodikar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of wagons in Bilaspur-Nagpur section of Eastern Railway;

(b) what procedure has been adopted in the supply of wagons to the merchants;

(c) whether there was any complaint from the merchants' Association of Rajnandgaon, District Drug, Madhya Pradesh State, regarding the supply and distribution of wagons;

(d) if so, what action has been taken; and

(e) what quantity of foodgrains have been lying at present in godowns in Rajnandgaon owing to non-supply of wagons?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes. The wagon supply is not adequate for current clearance of all the traffic offering.

(b) Wagons, as available, are supplied to consigners in the order of the registrations of their indents consistent with the preferential traffic schedule i.e., traffic entitled to any preferential treatment according to the comparative order of preference prescribed in the General and Special Orders issued under Section 27-A of the Indian Railways' Act, 1890.

(c) Yes.

(d) The General Manager, Eastern Railway, has been asked to take suitable action.

(e) This information is not available with the Railway as it relates to the disposition of contents of public godowns.

AMENITIES FOR P. AND T. STAFF

279. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what new facilities and amenities are proposed to be given to the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs and Telephone Departments in 1952-53;

(b) how many complaints and grievances from the staff (either individually or through Unions or otherwise) were received by Government in the year 1951-52; and

(c) how many have been favourably dealt with?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The welfare plans of the Department include the opening of or of making of provision for the following:—

Co-operative Stores and Societies.	... 36
Canteens	... 50
Night Schools for Class IV Staff.	... 18
Dormitories	... 9
Tiffin Rooms	... 33
Cycle stands	... 36
Retiring Rooms	... 9
Holiday Homes	... 2
Recreation Clubs	... 23

Reservation of 12 additional beds in different T.B. Sanatoria, construction of a five-bed ward in the Madar

Sanatorium, Ajmer, and a thirty-bed ward in the L.L. Sanatorium, Kasauli, for the P. and T. Staff suffering from Tuberculosis.

Construction of quarters for the staff throughout India, approximately at a cost of Rs. 27 lakhs.

(b) and (c). The information is not readily available. Its compilation will entail considerable effort, which will be out of proportion to its utility.

MEDICAL ALLOWANCES

280. Dr. M. M. Das: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exist any distinction between Gazetted and Non-Gazetted employees of the Income-tax Department in matters of medical allowances for Hospital treatment;

(b) if so, what are they; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in West Bengal Non-Gazetted employees living outside Calcutta are not entitled to medical expenses?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) No medical allowance is granted to the employees of the Income-tax Department, but their actual expenses on medical attendance and treatment to the extent admissible under the relevant Medical Attendance Rules are reimbursed to them. Generally speaking, no distinction is made between gazetted and non-gazetted staff as such.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No. All Central Government employees whether Gazetted or non-gazetted are entitled to medical concessions under relevant rules when stationed in West Bengal, including Calcutta. The only distinction is that as the Government of West Bengal could not make available the services of their Medical Officers in Calcutta to attend on Central Government non-gazetted employees stationed in or passing through Calcutta, they are allowed to receive medical attendance from private registered medical practitioners, at the cost of Government, while Central Government non-gazetted employees outside Calcutta are entitled to the professional services of the Medical Officers employed under the Government of West Bengal in accordance with the Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944.