

the stream during the stormy weather?

(d) If so, what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes; on the 6th January two boats carrying passengers from shore to steamer drifted into the open sea due to poor visibility and sudden stormy weather. They were, however, towed back to safety without any loss of life.

(b) It is reported that some 50 to 60 packages of personal baggage were jettisoned. The value of the property so lost is not known.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Kutch Minor Ports (Passenger Vessels) Rules providing for the licensing of such boats after inspection as regards their sea-worthiness and for the maintenance of adequate safety appliances are expected to be issued shortly. In the meanwhile, to cover the interim period, the Chief Commissioner for Kutch is issuing administrative instructions for the licensing, checking up the sea-worthiness, capacity, etc. of these boats and for control of traffic by the Water Police. It is also proposed to purchase and station a launch at Mandvi for rendering help in stormy weather.

CLASSIFICATION OF RAILWAY MATERIALS

649. Shri Nambiar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is the Stores Officer who classifies Railway materials at Perambur as unserviceable or whether there is a Board consisting of the Stores Officer, the Mechanical Officer and the Audit Officer to consider which items are to be condemned or not?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): A standing survey committee consisting of a Stores Officer, an Officer from each of the Mechanical, Electrical, Engineering and Accounts Departments decides which items should be scrapped.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CROPS AND SOILS WING

650. Shri Chinaria: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how far the recommendations of the Crops and Soils Wing meeting of March, 1952 in so far as they relate to Central Government have been implemented?

(b) Has the mechanisation of farming been reviewed and if so, by whom and with what conclusions?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 41].

(b) "Mechanisation of Agriculture in so far as the use of tractors is concerned" was one of the subjects discussed at the Crops and Soils Wing Meeting held at Indore in 1952. Action taken on the various recommendations on this subject made at that meeting is included in the statement referred to at (a) above.

GOODS CARRIED BY INDIAN SHIPPING COMPANIES

651. Shri C. R. Iyyunni: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what is the percentage of goods (cargoes) carried by the Indian Shipping Companies along the Indian Coast and the percentage by the Foreign Companies?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): During 1952 Indian shipping companies carried about 96 per cent. of the cargoes moving on the Indian coast and the remaining 4 per cent. were carried by foreign shipping companies. In 1953 so far, Indian companies have carried more than 99½ per cent. of the coastal trade.

SUB-POST OFFICES IN DELHI

652. Shri Gidwani: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what is the total number of Sub-Post Offices in Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that a large number of them have unsatisfactory premises?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 86, including 50 in New Delhi.

(b) In 24 offices the present accommodation is not considered adequate. Necessary action to improve matters either by construction of departmental buildings or renting suitable buildings has been taken.

BONUS TO CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA EMPLOYEES

653. Shri Tushar Chatterjea: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bank of India has effected a cut in the bonus paid to its employees and if so, what was the usual rate of bonus and what is the extent of the cut made;