

(b) Which agency had settled the rates of purchase?

(c) Was prior sanction of Government obtained before entering into contracts?

(d) Were all purchases made—

(i) on Government level and

(ii) on barter or

(iii) on cash payment basis?

(e) Were some purchases made by private agencies?

(f) Were any commissions and other overhead charges paid?

(g) If so, how much amount was so paid?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The quantities of foodgrains purchased during the present year upto the end of July 1953 are as follows:—

Foodgrain	Quantity in lakh tons	Value in lakh rupees
Wheat	16.2	6308
Flour	0.75	392
Milo and Sorghum	1.18	477
Rice	1.75	1453
	<u>19.88</u>	<u>8630</u>

The countries from which these foodgrains have been purchased are as follows:—

Wheat—U.S.A., Canada, Australia and Argentine.

Flour—Australia.

Milo and Sorghum—U.S.A. and Australia.

Rice—Thailand, Burma and Pakistan.

(b) Wheat and flour purchases except from Argentine, were under the I.W.A. for which the rate is already fixed under the International Wheat Agreement. From Argentine the wheat was against the barter agreement concluded by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. All rates of purchases are normally approved beforehand by the Government.

(c) Yes.

(d) Majority of purchases were made at Government level either on barter or against cash payment. Small quantities were purchased from the trade.

(e) Yes, a small quantity.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

ANTI-MALARIA UNIT IN TRIPURA

160. Shri Biren Dutt: (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the mobile anti-malaria unit has worked in any place in Tripura?

(b) What is the approximate number of malaria patients in Agartala Town at present?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) No.

(b) In all 1,521 malaria patients have been treated in the two Dispensaries and at the Out-Patient Department of the Victoria Memorial Hospital, Agartala. Many of these patients do not however, live within the Agartala town itself.

(c) The National Malaria Control Programme was started on the 11th July, 1953, in Tripura. Under this programme the State has been allotted $\frac{1}{2}$ unit which is expected to protect half a million people residing in malarious areas of the State. The State will receive free supply of D.D.T., anti-malarial drugs, transport and spraying equipment which will go a long way in eradicating malaria from Tripura.

DISTRIBUTION OF MAIL IN HILLY REGIONS

161. Shrimati Kamalendu Mati Shah: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what arrangements have been made to distribute mail in the hilly regions of U.P. where motorable and other roads do not exist?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Mails are conveyed by runners on foot and they

are delivered through runners, extra-Departmental Branch Postmasters and/or Delivery Agents.

TOURIST OFFICE IN SRINAGAR

162. Shri Lakshman Singh Charak:

(a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state how much money has been spent on the tourist office opened in Srinagar recently?

(b) How was the recruitment of the staff made for this office?

(c) Will the employees engaged in the Tourist Office get the same privileges and amenities as are given to other Central Government employees?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The initial expenditure incurred on the setting up of the Government of India Tourist Office in Srinagar amounted to Rs. 10,500 approximately.

(b) By departmental selection.

(c) Yes. Except for Class IV employees who have been appointed on local scales of pay and allowances, other officers are in receipt of pay and allowances similar to those admissible to officers of comparable status of the Central Government stationed at Srinagar.

RAILWAY EARNINGS

163. Shri Barman: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the approximate gross earnings of Indian Railways from Class I passengers in the first quarter of 1953-54 as compared with the corresponding period of 1952-53?

(b) Is it a fact that these earnings have gone down considerably?

(c) If so, what are the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Approximately Rs. 41.25 lakhs during the first quarter of 1953-54 as against Rs. 49.59 lakhs for the corresponding period of 1952-53.

(b) The earnings have dropped by Rs. 8½ lakhs as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

(c) The policy of progressive withdrawal of First class accommodation besides the general factors responsible for the recession in all classes of passenger traffic since 1951.

वर्षा

१६४. सेठ गोबिन्द दास : क्या संचार मंत्री उन राज्यों के नाम बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे जहां गत पांच वर्षों से वर्षा घटने लगी है ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): No consistent tendency towards decrease in rainfall in any State has been noticed in the period of the last 5 years.

WAITING ROOMS

165. Giani G. S. Musafir: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of I and II class waiting rooms on Railway Stations in India; and

(b) the number of Inter Class waiting rooms?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). So far as 1st, 2nd and inter class passengers are concerned, waiting rooms are maintained in three categories, namely:—

(i) for 1st and 2nd class passengers only.

(ii) for 1st, 2nd and inter class passengers only.

(iii) for inter class passengers only.

The numbers respectively are:—

(i) 1,290.

(ii) 695.

(iii) 538.