

RAILWAY COACHES (FANS)

229. Prof. D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many third class coaches were fitted with fans in 1952; and

(b) the target for the year 1953?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 1,003.

(b) 1,270.

COCONUT PLANTATIONS IN ANDAMANS ISLANDS

230. Shri Dabhi: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer given to starred question No. 814 asked on the 17th March, 1953 regarding duties of the Coconut Plantations in Andamans Islands and state:

(a) the extent of the areas of coconut plantations in the Andamans Islands;

(b) the ownership of these plantations;

(c) the annual production of copra from these plantations; and

(d) what work has so far been done by the Coconut Development Officer?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 3,125 acres.

(b) The ownership of the plantations vests in Government.

(c) 7,983 Lbs.

(d) The Coconut Development Officer has surveyed the plantations, assessed their present condition and suggested improvements for the future.

He is also organizing measures to control the rhinoceros beetle and other pests and making arrangements for the production and distribution of seedlings. Besides he is doing propaganda and advisory work amongst the growers.

WIDE-TYRED BULLOCK CART WHEELS

231. Shri Heda: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the number of designs of wide-tyred bullock cart wheels popularised so far; and

(b) the names of the States that have taken this work in hand?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Only one design of bullock cart wheel with 3½" wide tyre. Instead of the traditional narrow tyre, has been recommended for field scale experiments in States with a view to popularising it. The States have, however, been advised to experiment with a few pairs of wheels with 3" wide tyres also, to compare the relative merits of the 3" and 3½" wide tyres.

(b) Thirteen States, viz., Madras, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Punjab, Travancore-Cochin, Mysore, Hyderabad, Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan and Vindhya Pradesh, have so far agreed to participate in the scheme for popularising wider-tyred bullock cart wheels. As far as the Government of India are aware, the experiment has not progressed anywhere beyond the stage of manufacture of the new type of wheels.

LATE ARRIVAL OF GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS

232. Shri Heda: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the average late arrival of Grand Trunk Express at the points of Madras, and Delhi in the months of April, May and June, 1953;

(b) how many days the train was late by more than an hour; and

(c) the measures taken to improve the condition?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) During the period April to June 1953, the number of occasions on which the Grand Trunk Express trains arrived late at Madras and Delhi and their average time of late arrival are indicated below:—

	Madras	Delhi
No. of occasions arrived late.	No. of occasions arrived late.	No. of occasions arrived late.
Average minutes of late arrival.	Average minutes of late arrival.	Average minutes of late arrival.
April 20	51	14
May 23	69	23
June 19	37	14
		15
		58
		27