

for allocation of wagons for traffic between Guntur and Bombay; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Yes, a memorandum dated 7-10-1955 was submitted by the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Guntur, to Deputy Minister of Railways representing *inter alia* that the wagon quota for movement of traffic, tobacco in particular, from Guntur to Bombay should be increased.

(b) Since 7-12-1955, the overall quota for movement *via* Bezwada of traffic to Bombay (Wadi Bunder) from the Bezwada District has been increased from 9 wagons to 40 wagons per day. This increase is expected to appreciably improve upon the movement of traffic, including tobacco, from Guntur which is the predominant despatching station in the Bezwada District. The position is being carefully watched.

During the period from 1st May to 27th November a total of 174 wagons of tobacco were loaded at Guntur for Bombay and there were no outstanding indents there then.

#### Diversion of Main Line *via* Kakinada

**788. Shri Mohana Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum was submitted to the Deputy Minister of Railways during his visit to Kakinada about diverting the Main Line *via* Kakinada;

(b) if so, whether he promised to look into the matter; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The question will be considered when selecting new lines for construction during the Second Five Year Plan Period.

#### Railway Lines

**789. Shri Mohana Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the enquiry about laying looplines on Nidadavolu-Bhimavaram branch line, has been concluded?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** Yes, Sir. Three Flag Stations are being converted into crossing Stations on Nidadavolu-Bhimavaram branch line.

#### Weed Growth in Rajasthan

**790. Shri U. M. Trivedi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new kind of weed is spreading in Madhya Bharat and Rajasthan which is detrimental to grazing areas in these States;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to meet this evil; and

(c) the area now being occupied by this weed?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Information received from the States does not indicate the existence of any such weed.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Allotment of Wagons

**791. Shri Chandak:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities and priorities in respect of allotment of wagons to Government Contractors for despatch of Government stores manufactured by the Contractors;

(b) whether the Railways allot wagons to Government Contractors for despatch of Government stores even when there are restrictions and shortage of wagons; and

(c) whether the restrictions and shortages last for many months, especially in the Calcutta region for despatches to the South?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):**

(a) Traffic such as referred to does not enjoy any special priority unless its movement is on Government account and is programmed in consultation with the Railways concerned, in which case it is entitled to movement under item 'C' of the Preferential Traffic General Order No. 15, a copy of which is attached. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 37].

(b) Consistent with the position enjoyed by any traffic in the Preferential Traffic General Order, the extent of supply of wagons at a station for goods including those consigned by a Government Contractor, is subject to wagon availability and operational restrictions in force at the time of booking.

(c) The duration and frequency of restrictions, which are not altogether avoidable in the day-to-day working of the Railway, are kept down to the mini-

mum possible. The present inadequacy of the existing rail transport capacity *vis-à-vis* the demand of traffic is, however, not due to shortage of wagons alone but also to inadequacy of line capacity. Movement of traffic from Calcutta area to the South which, of late has been more or less current, is limited due to the limited line and junction capacity of the Bezwada-Madras section.

### महंगाई भत्ता

७६२. श्री के० सी० सोबिया : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) एक हजार रुपये से अधिक वेतन पाने वाले रेलवे कर्मचारियों का महंगाई भत्ता बन्द करने का कुल कितने पदाधिकारियों पर प्रभाव पड़ा है ; और

(ख) इस से कुल कितनी बचत होगी ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन उपमंत्रि (श्री अल्लगेशन) : (क) ३६५ ।

(ख) लगभग ४.७ लाख रुपये सालाना

### Phonogram System

793. Shri B. N. Misra : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in the State of Madhya Pradesh where the phonogram system is working and where Government propose to start the said system during the current financial year;

(b) when Government propose to complete the phonogram system at Khan Khambaria in Drug district; and

(c) whether the said system is to be introduced at Bilsaigarh in Raipur district and, if so, when?

The Deputy Minister of Communications ( Shri Raj Bahadur ) : (a) The phonogram Service is available to the public in the following places in Madhya Pradesh:—

Akola, Amraoti, Bilaspur, Chanda, Chhindwara, Dhamtari, Gadawara, Gondia, Hunganghat, Jabalpur, Katni, Khandwa, Kamptee Nagpur, Pachmarhi, Piparia

Pulgaon, Parasia, Raipur, Saugor City, Wardhaganj, Yeotmal.

Proposed : Burhanpur.

(b) and (c). The question will be examined when a telephone exchange is opened in Khambaria/Raipur.

### Railway Catering

794. Shri B. N. Mishra : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the month of May 1955 applications were invited for contracts for tea and meals stalls at some of the stations in South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the number of stations, and the terms and conditions of the contract;

(c) whether it is a fact that many persons are not running the contract themselves but have sublet them to others; and

(d) if so, what action is being taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport ( Shri Alagesan ) : (a) Yes.

(b) Applications were invited in respect of 37 stations, and a statement showing the terms and conditions of the contracts is attached. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 38].

(c) and (d). Reports of sub-letting have been received in respect of a number of these stations, and the allegations contained therein are under special investigation.

### Nellore Railway Station

795. Shri Ramachandra Reddi : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) the sanctioned estimate for re-modelling Nellore Railway Station and its yard;

(b) how much has been spent so far; and

(c) when the work is expected to be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport ( Shri Alagesan ) :

(a) Rs. 12,04,000/-.

(b) Rs. 5,04,000/-.

(c) Within a year.