

They are also not now subject to harassment and exploitation, which was reportedly meted out to them by some contractors.

(b) No.

#### Coal Wagons

585. **Shri B. Dasgupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the tonnage of coal originating in the homeland of South Eastern Railway and Eastern Railway respectively including coal for Government Railways (non-revenue);

(b) the number of coal wagons moving per year from Adra to Calcutta and passing through Kharagpur;

(c) the number of coal wagons moving per year from Adra to Calcutta and passing through Asansol;

(d) the average freight per ton per mile of coal; and

(e) the ratio of the working expenses to the gross earning from the freight of coal from Adra to Calcutta via Kharagpur and via Asansol respectively (1956-57)?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a)

Tonnage of coal during 1956-57 (In thousands)

South Eastern	
Railway ..	10,811
Eastern	
Railway ..	21,315

(b) 14,961 wagons in 1956-57.

(c) 2,608 wagons in 1956-57.

(d) Average rate (in pies) per ton of coal per mile in 1955-56.

South Eastern Railway—6'69.

Eastern Railway—6'58.

(e) The information is not available as it is not possible to compute the expenses for carriage of any specific item of traffic separately.

#### Construction of Double Railway Lines

586. **Shri B. Dasgupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the present average cost of construction of a double railway line per mile on the South Eastern and Eastern Railway, inclusive of incidental bridges?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): The Hon'ble Member is probably asking about the cost of providing a double line alongside the existing single line. On the Eastern Railway actually no doubling is in progress. On the South Eastern Railway the cost of doubling varies from Rs. 5.3 lakhs per mile to Rs. 8.3 lakhs per mile. The cost of doubling depends on the nature of the country traversed, cost of labour and materials, imported or indigenous, etc.

#### Postal Facilities in Orissa

587. **Shri P. G. Deb:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the expansion programme of postal services and facilities in the Districts of Sambalpur and Dhenkanal in the State of Orissa during the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications. (Shri Raj Bahadur): A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 130].

#### Lac Industry

588. **Shri R. Narayanasamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme for the development and improvement of the lac industry in the Cumbum valley, Periyakulam Taluk, Madurai District; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.