

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.

(b) The Government of India have sanctioned a scheme for extension of lac cultivation in Madras State at a total cost of Rs 1 lakh during the Second Five Year Plan period. The object of the scheme is to increase the production of lac and to shift the lac factory from Denkanipotta (Salem district) to Cumbum in the Madurai district and to expand its activities.

The State Govt of Madras are implementing the scheme. During the first year of the Plan, two brood farms have been opened in Vannathiparai and Suranganar Reserved Forests in the Cumbum Valley, and 100 trees have been inoculated. The factory has also been shifted to Cumbum and it is proposed to expand it by constructing lac godowns and other buildings during 1957-58. Enumeration of Shorea talura and other host trees has also been undertaken.

Railway Wagon Supply

589. Shri Nanjappa: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether sufficient wagons are made available as and when required for the speedy booking of potatoes at Mettupalayam Railway junction on the Southern Railway, and

(b) whether Government consider it worthwhile and profitable to construct cold storage godowns at Mettupalayam junction for perishable vegetables and tubers from Nilgiris?

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

(b) In so far as the Railway is concerned it is not considered necessary in view of (a) above. Special arrangements are made for the prompt booking and speedy clearance of the traffic during the potato season.

Purchase of Ships

590. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have placed an order with any foreign country

for purchase of ships during the current year; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

National Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme in Punjab

591. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes implemented in Punjab (District-wise) under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme in rural areas; and

(b) the amount spent upto the end of April, 1957, thereon?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b) A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No 131].

Renovation of Katras in Delhi

592. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state

(a) the number of Katras that have been renovated so far in Delhi, and

(b) the number of Katras still to be renovated?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Basic amenities, such as water taps, latrines, drains, essential and urgent minor repairs, one or two light points, etc have been provided in 190 Katras in Delhi.

(b) There are still over 1300 slum Katras where such amenities are required to be provided.