

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) About 500 Co-operative Marketing Societies are to be organized in jute growing States viz., West Bengal, Orissa, Assam and Bihar. These societies will assist their members in obtaining loans on the pledge of jute and other agricultural commodities.

(b) There is no proposal to make large scale outright purchase of jute in peak season through Co-operative Societies.

Imported Foodgrains,

263. Shri Balarama Krishnalal: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that stocks of food grains imported at some ports have been found short;

(b) if so, the total quantity found short at each port in 1955, 1956 and 1957; and

(c) steps Government have taken to remedy the situation?

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

(b) The accounts of foodgrains imported from abroad are maintained on financial year-wise basis. A statement showing the quantities of foodgrains short-landed during the last financial years 1954-55 to 1956-57 is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 92].

(c) The shortages are due to natural phenomenon on account of evaporation during voyage and different methods of weighment at the ports of loading and unloading e.g. while at the port of loading the weighment is done by mechanical equipment, the weighment at the port of discharge is done by beam scales of weigh-bridges. These shortages are within reasonable limits considering the volume of imports, but steps are nevertheless taken to have proper supervision over the unloading and weighment operations at the ports of discharge.

Howrah and Sealdah Station Porters and Godown Workers

264. Shri Rajendra Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Railway licenced porters Union and Railway godown workers Union at Howrah and Sealdah Stations have launched satyagraha;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested so far;

(c) the nature of their demands; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) There was a Satyagraha at Howrah station only in September last.

(b) 120.

(c) and (d). The demands were:—

(a) Extension of Minimum Wages Act to parcel and Godown porters.

(b) Recognition of licensed porters Union.

(c) Reinstatement of victimised licensed porters.

(d) Transfer of some corrupt mates from Howrah.

The position in respect of these demands is as under:—

(a) The matter is under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

(b) Licensed Porters not being Railway employees, their Unions are not eligible for recognition in accordance with the policy of the Government.

However, Committees of elected representatives of licensed porters have been constituted both at Sealdah and Howrah and the grievances of the

licensed porters are discussed at the periodical meetings of these Committees with the Station Superintendent concerned for taking remedial action wherever warranted.

- (c) There was no case of victimisation of licensed porters. However, some of the porters involved in various assault cases and indiscipline were disallowed to work as licensed porters at Howrah. On a review of the matter some of them have been reinstated. The cases of some others are under review while in the case of the remaining few, it is not proposed to reinstate them in view of their past record.
- (d) The allegations of corruption against the Mates concerned were not proved and the question of a transfer did not, therefore, arise.

Supply of Sleepers by Andhra Government

285. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has offered to supply sleepers;
- (b) if so, the quantity thereof; and
- (c) the result of the said offer?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (c). In 1956, the ex. Hyderabad State, now a part of Andhra Pradesh, offered to supply 45,000 sleepers to the Railways by 31st March, 1958. Nothing has been received so far.

No other offers have been made by the newly constituted Andhra Pradesh.

Mail Vans

286. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Mail Vans proposed to be constructed during the

Second Plan period for use in the Metre Gauge of the Southern Railway for Indo-Ceylon Express and Trivandrum Express;

(b) whether it is a fact that the accommodation in the Mail Van in Trivandrum Express is inadequate; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ease the congestion?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) 10 Metre Gauge Postal Vans with standard full van accommodation have been programmed to be built during 1957-58 in the Second Five Year Plan. These Vans are all allotted to the Southern Railway.

(b) At present one standard full van accommodation is provided on Trivandrum Express. There is no complaint that this accommodation is inadequate.

(c) Does not arise.

Areca Nut Research Centres

287. **Shri Wodeyar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the amount allotted during 1957-58 to various Areca Nut Research Centres in the States?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): A sum of Rs. 2,12,599 has been allotted during 1957-58 to various Areca Nut Research Centres in the States as per details below:—

State	Amount allotted Rs.
1. West Bengal.	48,100
2. Assam.	44,070
3. Kerala (For Malabar District).	38,300
4. Kerala (For Central Travancore).	38,265
5. Mysore (Maidan Parts).	38,265
6. Orissa.	5,599
TOTAL	2,12,599