

(d) the action Government have taken or propose to take to stop these continuing shortages which entail heavy loss to the national revenue?

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

(b) Yes, in the audit reports on the Madras Timber Depot for 1954-55 and 1955-56.

(c) During the period from October 1953 to August 1957, the total shortages reported were 368 tons\* 34 cft. of Sawn timber valued at Rs. 94,603 and 12 tons\* 10 cft. of logs valued at Rs. 2,284.

(d) A Committee under the Deputy Commissioner, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, has been constituted to look into the question of these shortages and to determine the Forest Department's claims preferred against the Shipping Companies, for short delivery. Pending receipt of the Committee's report, the Chief Commissioner had laid down the following procedure to avoid such losses in future:—

(1) Scantling should be tied in bundles before shipment.

(2) Cargo should be tallied both at the time of shipment and at the time of discharge.

(3) Tallying work should be done jointly by the tally clerk of the Indian Coastal Conference Line, and

(4) Andamans Government Timber Depots should provide clerks for verification at the time of discharging timber

#### Traffic Inspectors

1957. Shri F. G. Sen: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many of the Traffic Inspectors having independent charge are working in pre-1931 scale and are being given the pay of the junior scale, viz., staff in the scale of Rs. 150—EB—200—275 in the North-Eastern Railway at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that they were also selected by the Selection Board in Calcutta in May 1946 for those posts in the pre-1931 scale;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the Traffic Inspectors selected by the same Board are drawing pay in pre-1931 scale (i.e., Rs. 300—500); and

(d) if so, the reasons why others are deprived?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Five

(b) Out of these five persons, three were selected by a Selection Board held in 1946 on the ex-B.A. Railway in Calcutta. The other two were selected later

(c) Yes

(d) After the introduction of prescribed scales of pay, posts were allocated *pro forma* in the two pre-1931 scales of pay of Traffic Inspectors, viz., Rs 150—275 and Rs 300—500 for persons who retained the pre-1931 scales of pay. The promotion of staff in the lower pre-1931 scale to the higher scale depends on the vacancies available in the higher grade

#### Canning and Bottling Unit in Manipur

1958. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 1503 on the 11th September, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries Organisation has since done anything to start an experimental canning and bottling unit in order to improve the marketing facilities of oranges and pine apples grown in the Tamenglong and Churchandpur area; and

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the unit to be set up?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The Small Scale Industries Organisation is collecting data for the preparation of a scheme for the canning of pine-apples and oranges in Manipur.

(b) Does not arise.