

the Katihar-Singabhad section of N.E.F. Railway and whether the proposal was supported by the District Magistrate of Malda, the Regional Railway Users' Consultative Committee, Pandu and the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee;

(b) whether the Railway Board has considered a proposal of opening a contractor operated passenger halt at Malahar and made any decision on the same, and

(c) if not, when the decision is likely to be made and, if any decision has been made, when the halt or the station is likely to be opened? ,

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, except that the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee has not yet given its opinion on this proposal and the matter is pending further consideration by that Committee

(b) and (c) The proposal will be considered by the Railway Board on receipt of the views of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee.

Plant Disease in Manipur

1104. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a disease in an epidemic form has invaded the crop plants in almost all parts of Manipur,

(b) if so, what is the total acreage of paddy lands affected by the disease; and

(c) what are the steps taken to protect the paddy plants in Manipur?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The paddy crop in all the revenue sub-divisions of the Territory was affected by insect pests in a few localised areas. It was not in an epidemic form and the affected crop after treatment is rapidly reviving.

(b) No data regarding the area affected is available.

(c) The insecticides were sold at 50% subsidised sale price and equipment distributed to the farmers by the Manipur Administration. Insecticides and the control equipment were also despatched to the area for distribution in the affected area by the Central Plant Protection Station, Gauhati.

All-India Railwaymen's Federation

**1105. { Shri Vajpayee:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether leaders of the All India Railwaymen's Federation met the Members of the Railway Board recently,

(b) if so, the points discussed at the meeting, and

(c) the decisions taken thereon?

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

(b) A copy of the agenda is given below —

- 1 Withdrawal of the Essential Services Maintenance Act
Withdrawal of the Railway Service (Conduct Rules, 1956)
- 2 Victimisation of Railwaymen.
- 3 Decasualisation of Labour
- 4 Equal treatment in the matter of privileges to Class III and Class IV employees
- 5 Stoppage of recruitment in intermediate grades
- 6 Extension of the NEW DEAL advantages to the Workshop Staff
- 7 Equality in treatment to all staff in respect of privileges.
8. A 42-hour week in the Railways.
- 9 Calculation of Overtime allowance on daily basis.

10. Abolition of efficiency bars and promotion by seniority in the next two higher grades above the initial grade.

11. The Permanent Negotiating Machinery.

12. Issues before the Tribunal of Shri Justice Saran.

13. Filling up of vacancies.

14. Station Masters.

(c) The record of discussions is being finalised in consultation with the All India Railwaymen's Federation.

Electricity in States

1106. Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the kilowattage of electricity produced in all States under the First and Second Five Year Plans till 31st July, 1958;

(b) what portion of the total output in each State has been utilised for Industrial and Agricultural purposes with increase of production; and

(c) to what extent people are being benefited by that?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Two statements, I and II, showing units of electricity produced in all States and Centrally Administered areas, under the First Five Year Plan (1951-56) and the Second Five Year Plan (1956 till the 31st July, 1958), are attached. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 79].

(b) Two statements, III and IV, showing the quantity in Kilowatt Hours sold for industrial and agricultural purposes by public electric utilities in the various States and Centrally Administered areas during the periods 1951-56 and 1956 to 31st July, 1958, are attached. [See Appendix III, annexure 79].

Information regarding increase in industrial and agricultural production is not available.

(c) A statement V is attached [See Appendix III, annexure No. 79].

देहाती क्षेत्रों में डाकघर

११०७. श्री ज० बी० मिश्र : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५६-५७ और १९५७-५८ में उत्तर प्रदेश के देहाती क्षेत्रों में कितने डाकघर खोले गये ;

(ख) इनमें से कितने शाखा डाकघर और कितने सदर डाकघर हैं और उन पर अलग-अलग कितना वार्षिक व्यय होता है ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि इन डाकघरों में से अधिक में हानि हो रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो ऐसे डाकघरों की संख्या और उन पर कितनी हानि हुई ;

(ङ) क्या यह भी सच है कि इन घाटे पर चलने वाले डाकघरों के कारण उन स्थानों पर नये डाकघर नहीं खोले जा रहे हैं जहाँ इनकी आवश्यकता है; और

(च) यदि हां, तो जहाँ पत्र आदि भेजना कठिन है वहाँ डाकघर खोलने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की जा ही है?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री (श्री स० बा० पाटिल) : (क).

१९५६-५७ में	. ३७२
१९५७-५८ में	. २६२