

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The relevant rule reads as follows:

"Hospital leave may be granted on leave salary equal to either average or half-average pay as the authority granting it may consider necessary".

The practice on the Northern Railway has been to grant such leave on full pay except when the accident on duty is due to the neglect or fault of the employees.

TELEGRAMS SENT FROM KISHTWAR

*309. **SHRI OM MEHTA:** Will the Minister of POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telegrams booked in Telegraph Office at Kishtwar on the 28th March, 1964 were delivered at Jammu Cantonment on 3rd April, 1964;

(b) whether it is a fact that for the last one year there had been inordinate delay in the delivery of telegrams in that area; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to improve the faulty line and delivery of telegrams?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI):

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes, on several occasions.

(c) Projects to reconstruct the telegraph line in the area have been sanctioned and also undertaken. The progress is retarded due to the difficult terrain, climatic conditions and recent blasting operations. Considerable improvement is expected by the end of this year.

SIDING FROM BHADRACHELLAM ROAD TO KOTHAGUDIUM

*310. **SHRI P. K. KUMARAN:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the work in connection with the siding from Bhadrachellam Road to the proposed 120 N.W. thermal plant at Kothagudium, Andhra Pradesh is likely to be undertaken;

(b) what is the length of the proposed siding and its estimated cost; and

(c) what percentage thereof will be borne by the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) The work has been started in February, 1964 and is in progress.

(b) The length of the siding is approximately 10 miles and the estimated cost is about Rs. 87 lakhs.

(c) The entire cost of the siding is borne by the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board.

COLOURING VANASPATI GHEE

*311. **SHRI JAGAT NARAIN:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised any scheme for colouring vanaspati Ghee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

MANUFACTURE OF JAGGERY FROM TODDY

*312. **SHRI J. S. PILLAI:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much jaggery is manufactured in our country from coconut toddy, date-palm toddy and palm toddy; and

(b) the names of the States where this jaggery is available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The information is not readily available.

WOODEN SLEEPERS FOR INDIAN RAILWAYS

*313. SHRI PALAT KUNHI KOYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wooden sleepers for broad and metre gauge required by our Railways annually, of high and low grade, separately;

(b) the names of the States which are supplying sleepers and the quantities supplied by each of them annually;

(c) the present rates paid by the Railways per piece respectively;

(d) whether any sleepers are purchased from outside India; and if so, the price paid therefor; and

(e) what is the average life of a high grade sleeper and a low grade sleeper (creosoted) used on railway tracks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Apparently the Honourable Member is referring to the annual requirements of durable and non-durable wooden sleepers. The latter require preservative treatment using creosote. The current year's requirement is about 25 lakhs broad gauge, 22 lakhs metre gauge and 5 lakhs narrow gauge wooden sleepers.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) Occasionally, due to shortage of indigenous sleepers, imports were made and the prices paid are given in the statement referred to in parts (b), and (c) above.

(e) The average life is 18 years for durable sleepers and 12 years for non-durable sleepers after treatment.

STATEMENT

1. Names of the States supplying wooden sleepers.	Quantity of sleepers supplied during the year 1962-63			
	Broad gauge (Nos.)	metre gauge (Nos.)	Narrow gauge (Nos.)	Special size sleepers (C. ft.)
1. Andhra Pradesh	2,691	6,652	1,269	..
2. Assam	1,49,416	4,20,769	90,599	1,18,635
3. N.E.F.A.	78,768	1,52,490	7,815	..
4. Nagaland	7,114	18,554
5. Bihar	4,175	16,422	22,276	870
6. Himachal Pradesh	49,243	32,144	5,867	..
7. Jammu & Kashmir	6,10,061	1,30,817	63,363	..
8. Kerala	14,009	7,630	3,007	2,596
9. Madhya Pradesh	5,298	6,751	5,852	75,025
10. Madras	15,160	2,378	1,013	226
11. Mysore	3,93,433	7,06,269	1,25,528	67,141
12. Orissa	25,134	41,470	51,842	5,31,260
13. Uttar Pradesh	1,69,115	1,59,831	60,535	3,20,950
14. West Bengal	7,508	17,646	10,421	1,25,485
From Tibet	43,004	1,62,348	19,864	3,12,281
TOTAL	15,74,269	18,82,171	4,69,251	15,54,469