

LOANS TO THE INDIAN TELEPHONE INDUSTRIES, BANGALORE

248. DR. R. P. DUBE: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans given to the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore, which (i) remain to be converted into paid-up share capital; and (ii) are pending recovery;

(b) the amount of loans given to the concern which was recovered during the year 1953-54; and

(c) whether the Company keeps its cash balances in a private bank?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) (i) and (ii). The amount of loan that has been given to Indian Telephone Industries is Rs. 51,84,200. It is not proposed to convert any part of this loan into paid-up share capital at present.

(b) Nil.

(c) Yes, in the Imperial Bank of India and the Central Bank of India.

HYBRIDIZATION OF RICE

249. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, is conducting research in hybridization of rice;

(b) if so, the particulars of such research;

(c) the quality of rice with which this experiment is being conducted; and

(c) the amount so far spent on this experiment?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN):

(a) Yes.

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

(c) A number of rice varieties of India, South and South-East Asia are being crossed to several Japanese varieties.

(d) Rs. 2,17,103 till January 1955.

STATEMENT

Work being done at the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack

The work consists of making the crosses, studying the subsequent hybrid generations, and making selections and supplying seeds to the States in India and several South and South-East Asian Countries for growing the F₂ generation of the various cross combinations.

SURVEY OF A RAILWAY LINE

250. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey of the Bangalore-Salem railway line has been taken up; and

(b) what has been the result of such survey?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The work is still in progress.

IMPLEMENTATION OF EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME

251. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any concerns under European management in Calcutta where the Employees Provident Fund Scheme has not been implemented so far; and

(b) if so, which are those concerns and what are the reasons in each case?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI): (a) Yes, there is one such concern.

(b) The name of the concern is Messrs. French Motor Car Company Ltd., Calcutta. It has been contesting the applicability of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, and the Scheme framed thereunder. After protracted correspondence with the Company which did not bear any fruitful results, the Central Government have issued an order under section 19-A of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, bringing the Company under the purview of the Act, with effect from the 1st April, 1954. The Company has now challenged the validity of this order also. The question of taking legal action against the Company is at present under consideration.

USE OF WAGONS FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES

252. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wagons used by railway employees for residential proposes in each railway zone in each year from 1952-53 onwards; and

(b) whether any rent is charged for these wagons, if so, what is the rate per wagon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). A statement showing the requisite information is attached. [See Appendix IX, Annexure No. 78.]

NON-SCHEDULED FLIGHTS

253. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times when the Director General of Civil Aviation gave permission for non-scheduled International Flights in the year 1954 by (i) the Air India International and (ii) foreign airline companies; and

(b) the places for which such permission was given?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) (i) 13.

(ii) 65 return flights to India and 852 return flights across India.

(b) (i) *Air India International*.—China (Canton), Hongkong, Saudi Arabia (Jedda), Switzerland (Geneva) and U.K. (London).

(ii) The 65 return flights by foreign operators originated from Belgium, Ceylon, Cyprus, Kuwait, Pakistan, Singapore and U.K. The 852 return flights across India were between various points in the West and in the East.

INDIAN COASTAL CONFERENCE

254. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the shipping companies which were members of the Indian Coastal Conference in each year since the Conference came into being;

(b) whether any of the member companies have since resigned from this Conference; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the resignation in each case?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) A statement giving the required information is appended.

(b) and (c). As will be seen from the statement appended, the two Associated Members of the Indian Coastal Conference, namely, the British-India Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., Bombay, and the Asiatic Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., Bombay, resigned from the Conference early in 1954 for the reason that they could no longer participate in the coastal trade.