

companies for aviation petrol are uniform for foreign and national carriers in India. It is understood that the oil companies allow a rebate of 0-1-9 per gallon to scheduled airlines, 0-1-3 per gallon to non-scheduled airlines and 0-0-6 per gallon to Flying Clubs.

DEPARTMENTAL CATERING ON THE RAILWAYS

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

(a) whether the Railway Administration propose to entrust catering arrangements on the Eastern and Southern Railway zones to private contractors in the coming year; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for continuing the departmental catering on these two railway zones at a loss?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) On the Eastern and Southern Railway Zones a number of catering establishments are being already managed by catering contractors, in addition to some dining cars, restaurants and refreshment rooms, etc., which are being run departmentally.

There is no proposal to entrust the latter to private contractors.

(b) The question of departmental catering *versus* contract system is at present under examination by the Committee on Catering headed by the Deputy Minister and further action will be taken in the light of the result of this examination.

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF TRANSPORT

119. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport met during the year 1953; and

(b) what work was transacted in each meeting?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) 13.

(b) At each meeting the Committee reviewed the extent of fulfilment of transport demands in the previous month and took decisions on the steps necessary to remove bottlenecks, if any, in achieving movement targets of essential commodities.

PRE-PARTITION RAILWAY ACCOUNTS

120. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pre-partition Railway Accounts for the period 1st April 1947 to 13th August 1947 have since been closed;

(b) whether the post-partition figures of balances of non-revenue items have since been arrived at; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the particular non-revenue figures which are yet to be arrived at?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) No.

(b) Pending final closing of pre-partition accounts the balances have been adopted provisionally, where necessary.

(c) Final balances under all non-revenue heads have still to be worked out.

INVESTMENT OF THE ACCUMULATIONS IN THE EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND

121. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to my Unstarred Question No. 70 on the 1st September, 1953 and state:

(a) whether the cash accumulations out of the total accumulations of Rs. 1,22,83,819 in the Employees' Provident Fund have not yet been invested in profit bearing securities; and

(b) whether the interest so far earned by contributors on their credit-balances has been credited to their accounts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) The cash accumulations in question have been invested in the Central Government Securities.

(b) The decision of the Government, under para 60 of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, fixing 3 per cent as interest for the years 1952-53 and 1953-54 was communicated to the Central Provident Fund Commissioner on the 20th January 1954 and the work of crediting interest at the above rate to the individual accounts of subscribers is in progress.

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ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR SINKING OF TUBE WELLS

122. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether the cost of sinking 3,000 tube wells in the next three years for which a sum of Rs. 24 crores has been allotted will be a revenue or a capital expenditure?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): Out of nearly Rs. 23 crores to be spent for this purpose only 1.2 crores for the rupee expenditure on the exploratory project will be spent from the Revenue Budget and the rest from the Capital Budget.

PURCHASE OF CHEMICAL FERTILISERS

123. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to my Starred Question No. 118 on the 1st September 1953, and state:

(a) whether any annual Trading Account of the scheme of "Purchase of Chemical Fertilizers", together with the Balance Sheet has been published;

(b) whether the figures of investment and recoveries given in the answer to the question are audited figures; and

(c) the stock of chemical fertilizers in hand under the scheme on the 1st September 1953?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The annual Trading Account of this scheme together with the Balance Sheet have been published for the first time in respect of the year 1950-51 in the Commercial Appendix to the Appropriation Account (Civil) for that year compiled by the Accountant General, Central Revenues.

(b) The figures of investment and recoveries have been audited for the years 1944-45 to 1951-52. The figures relating to the period after 1951-52 had not been audited at the time of my reply on the 1st September, 1953.

(c) 16,401 tons.

BUSES UNDER THE DELHI ROAD TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

124. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of buses at present run by the Delhi Road Transport Authority; and

(b) the number of buses added during the current financial year to the fleet of buses run by the Authority?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) 240.

(b) 30.

CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY LINES UNDER THE POST-WAR RAILWAY RECONSTRUCTION

125. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Post-war Railway Reconstruction scheme prepared by