

costing Rs. 61,000 are, however, vacant at present but proposals for suitably utilising these are under consideration.

(d) No new construction on account of this shifting of office work was found necessary.

EMPLOYEES OF THE DARJEELING HIMALAYAN SECTION OF THE N.E. RAILWAY

*246. DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJI: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scales of pay of the railway staff employed on the Darjeeling Himalayan section are the same as the scales of pay of the staff employed on the Assam section of the North Eastern Railway; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the service rendered by the staff of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, before that Railway was taken over by Government is not being recognised by Government; if so why not?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) D.H. Railway staff on re-employment under Government were fixed in C.P.C. scales which are uniform throughout the N.E. Railway.

(b) The service has been treated as continuous for purposes of Provident Fund, Special Contribution to Provident Fund, leave, passes etc., but not for seniority *vis-a-vis* staff of the ex-Assam Railway.

POST OFFICES, TELEGRAPH OFFICES AND BRANCH POST OFFICES OPENED IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

116. SHRI C. L. VARMA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Post Offices, Telegraph Offices and Branch Post Offices opened in Himachal Pradesh from the 15th April 1948 up-to-date; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Telegraph Offices in Kotkhai and Jubbal have not so far been completed; if so, when they are likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Sub-Post Offices opened—3 including one combined sub-office.

Branch Post Offices opened—45 and in addition 11 sanctioned for opening in July and August but date of opening not yet known.

Telegraph Offices—3.

(b) Yes; efforts are being made to have the offices opened before end of this year.

FOODGRAIN PRICES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

117. SHRI C. L. VARMA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is great resentment amongst the public of Himachal Pradesh on account of the high prices of foodgrains prevailing in that State;

(b) what are the wholesale prices of wheat in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Patiala and East Punjab States Union; and

(c) whether Government propose to subsidise the wheat prices in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a) A representation was received from the Himachal Pradesh Government regarding imported wheat allotted to them earlier in the year. Subsequent allotments have been made only from PEPSU and Punjab.

(b) The wholesale market prices of wheat as on 1st August 1953 are as follows:

(Rupees per maund)

Himachal Pradesh—

(1) Nahan	... 16/8/-
(2) Sundernagar	.. 20/-/-
(3) Theog	... 20/8/-

Punjab—

(1) Amritsar	... 13/10/-
(2) Abohar	... 13/ 8 /-

PEPSU—

(1) Bhatinda	... 13/11/-
(2) Patiala	... 14/ 4 /-

(c) No.

MONEY ADVANCED TO HIMACHAL PRADESH FOR PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

118. SHRI C. L. VARMA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much money has been advanced by the Government of India to the Himachal Pradesh Government after the 15th April 1948 up-to-date for procurement of foodgrains;

(b) whether Government have obtained detailed accounts from the Himachal Pradesh Government in respect of the amount advanced, and if not, why not; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the transaction of gram in that State resulted in loss; if so, what was the total amount of the loss?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a), (b) and (c). The subject matter of the question relates to the Ministry of States. Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

OVER-BRIDGES AND UNDER-BRIDGES CONSTRUCTED BY THE RAILWAYS

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

(a) the number of over-bridges and under-bridges constructed by the rail-

ways in the year 1952-53 and the places where they were constructed;

(b) the number of these bridges under construction in the year 1953-54 and the places where the construction work is going on; and

(c) the places for which sanction has been accorded for the construction of these bridges in the year 1953-54?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Apparently the hon. Member desires to have the information in regard to the provision of road over-bridges in replacement of existing level crossings. The number of such bridges constructed in 1952-53 is five, the location of these being Avanashi Road on the Irugur link, Patna, Gondia, Gwalior and Indore.

(b) Two; one at Satyamangalam Road on the Irugur link and the other at Khurda Road Station;

(c) Two; one at Dhanbad and the other at Bhubaneswar.

TICKETLESS TRAVELLING

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

(a) the number of cases of ticketless travelling detected at the railway stations at (i) Delhi, (ii) Madras, (iii) Bombay, and (iv) Calcutta during the year 1952-53; and

(b) the extent of passenger traffic at these railway stations during the same period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) The number of cases of ticketless travelling detected at the following stations during the 1952-53, is shown against each:

Delhi	...	...	58,136
Madras	...	...	11,068
Bombay	...	...	10,276
Calcutta	...	...	43,422