

Shortage of Wagons in Jabalpur-Itarsi Section

*531. **Shri Hari Vishnn Kamath:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received regarding serious shortage of wagons in the Jabalpur-Itarsi section (Central Railway) for movement of grains; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Clearance of traffic is being arranged to the maximum extent possible within the overall availability of wagons.

Production of Sugar

*532. **Shri B. Verma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Mill owners of Sugarcane Factories of U.P. are thinking in terms of reducing the cane price now on the plea of less percentage of recovery of sugar; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to safeguard the interests of the cultivators?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The primary interest of the sugarcane grower is that his standing cane is crushed and every effort is being made to achieve this.

Supply of Saloons to Thailand

*533. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India are negotiating with the Thailand Government for

the supply of three Integral Coach Factory built royal saloons for the use of Thai Royal family; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):
(a) In response to a global tender an offer has been made to the State Railway of Thailand for the supply of three royal saloons to be built at the Integral Coach Factory.

(b) Final decision of the Thailand State Railway is awaited.

Post Card Vending Machines

{ **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
*534. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
 { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether field trials of Post Card vending machines have been completed;

(b) if so, whether they have proved successful; and

(c) when such machines will be introduced in all Post Offices?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) Although the performance of the machine is satisfactory, it has the drawback that two operations have to be performed to get a postcard. First, a coin has to be inserted and then a lever to be turned before the postcard is released. Efforts are, therefore, being made to evolve a machine whereby a postcard is released on the insertion of a coin without having to turn a lever.

(c) As soon as our efforts succeed in manufacturing a suitable machine in India.