

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah nawaz Khan):** (a) It is not a fact that coal is stolen from coal wagons at Katni. Thefts of coal, however, have occurred in the Eastern Railway loco shed there.

(b) Thefts of coal came to prominent notice in October, 1951.

(c) Surprise joint raids by watch and ward and Government Railway Police with Railway employees of other Departments as witnesses, are being frequently organised. Two uniformed watch and ward men have been posted at Katni to guard the Eastern Railway coal stacks.

(d) Some 6 or 7 persons are believed to be involved in the theft.

(e) About 7 tons of coal have been recovered from the godowns and huts of the suspects.

(f) The suspects are not connected with the Railway.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister be pleased to inform the House as to the total amount of theft?

**Shri Shah nawaz Khan:** We do not have the exact figure.

श्री शार० बी० शाह : क्या मामला जंक्शन पर भी इस तरह की चोरी की रिपोर्ट मिली है ?

**Shri Shah nawaz Khan:** I will be glad for the information.

#### PALM GUR INDUSTRY

\*482. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the amount of expenditure incurred by the Central Government for development of Palm Gur industry?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnaappa):** Expenditure incurred by the Central Government upto September, 1952:—

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| (i) Subsidies granted to the States for Palm Gur Development Scheme.....Rs. | 15,31,042/-        |
| (ii) Central Palm Gur Trg. School, Cuddalore...                             | Rs. 2,27,930/-     |
| <b>TOTAL.....Rs.</b>  | <b>17,58,972/-</b> |

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** While sanctioning this expenditure, have Government examined the potentiality of

this industry being developed so as to replace Cane Gur industry and release Cane acreage for other purposes.

**Shri M. V. Krishnaappa:** Yes, they sanctioned it after examining the whole thing.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know which State has received the highest subsidy?

**Shri M. V. Krishnaappa:** I will give all the figures, for 1951-52.

	Rs.
U.P.	25,750
Bombay	38,300
Orissa	16,830
Coorg	15,000
Bihar	24,830
Madras	1,54,716
Rajasthan	31,156
E. Punjab	12,750
Mysore	Nil
Bhopal	12,000
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4,500
Ajmer	21,600
Hyderabad	24,668
Delhi	6,000
Saurashtra	14,750
West Bengal	69,000
Trav. Cochin.	14,245

Madras has received the highest.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the Madras Government have established any experimental centres for the production of palm gur and for training of the necessary personnel?

**Shri M. V. Krishnaappa:** We have a training school in the Madras State. It is at Cuddalore, and is managed by the Centre.

**Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** Is there any place which has become self-supporting after the grant of this subsidy?

**Shri M. V. Krishnaappa:** I have no information.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know the period during which this expenditure has been incurred and whether the results achieved have been assessed?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** From 1948 onwards the expenditure has been annually incurred.

**An Hon. Member:** How about the results?

**Shri Namadas:** May I know whether there are any impediments in the way of our exporting palm gur to other countries?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** We have not got the facilities.

**Mr. Speaker:** Now let us go to the next question.

#### MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (RAILWAYMEN)

\*483. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railwaymen who were voters in the various Municipalities were not given holiday or relief facilities to go to polls for elections to the local municipalities in the State of Madras where elections were held recently?

(b) if so, why; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there were representations from labour organisations of Railwaymen and from public in this respect and if so, what action was taken thereon?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):** (a) and (b). It has not been the practice to declare holidays or to give special facilities to Railway Staff for local municipal elections. On 6.10.52 the day of the elections in the Trichinopoly Municipality, however, permission was granted as a special case to eligible voters of the Golden Rock Railway Workshops and attached Depots to leave duty an hour earlier than the closing time.

(c) No representations were received from recognised Railway Labour Unions but certain representations from other sources were received and given due consideration.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know the reason why railwaymen were not allowed to go to the polling stations during the municipal elections, while they were permitted to do so during the elections for the legislatures?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** It is for the State Government to declare a holiday and when the State Government does so, the railways also consider it

**Shri Nambiar:** In view of the fact that in Trichinopoly the district magistrate of that district declared a holiday, may I know why the railway authorities refused to grant a holiday for the railwaymen?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** The municipal elections were held throughout the

Madras State and nowhere was a holiday declared by the State Government.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know why, when the district magistrate had declared a holiday, the railway authorities refused. . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the hon. Member consider the answer given by the hon. Minister? He stated that no holiday was declared by the Madras Government. It may have been only a local holiday.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know then why the local holiday was not extended to railway workers, when other workers in the same district got it?

**Mr. Speaker:** He is now carrying on an argument.

**Shri Nambiar:** No, Sir. I want to know the reason.

**Mr. Speaker:** He said that they were released one hour earlier.

**Shri Nambiar:** Then, may I know whether a subsequent request for relief after 3 P.M. was turned down?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** We are not aware of that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

#### TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT GONDIA

\*484. **Shri Jasani:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the installation of a Telephone Exchange at Gondia Town of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken and when the work is likely to be commenced?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes.

(b) The work will start very soon. The exchange is likely to be opened before March, 1953.

**Shri Jasani:** Is it a fact that the work of installation of the Telephone Exchange at Gondia is being delayed for the last six or eight months, and if so, what are the reasons for the delay and when is the work likely to be completed?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It is a work budgeted for this year. We take time for collecting the equipment and materials for opening an Exchange. The Switch Board is ready. Other materials are coming. The work will start very soon.