

(c) whether Government are aware that already the crushing capacity of this Mill at Hamira is too low to utilise all the sugar-cane available in the surrounding area and that the sugar-cane growers of the Ilaqua are very much perturbed;

(d) whether Government have received a representation from the people of Jullunder district, which is surrounding this mill, sent through the Punjab Governor, that in order to facilitate the crushing of cane a new sugar mill should be started;

(e) whether all these conditions had been fully taken into consideration before granting permission for the removal of the main factory from this area;

(f) whether, in view of the strong opposition from the growers, Government are prepared to revise its decision; and

(g) whether the views of the PEPSU and Punjab Governments were ascertained before granting the above permission?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The main reasons for allowing shifting of the factory from its present site are: inadequate supply of cane at the existing site and low recovery of sugar from cane.

(c) It is not correct that the crushing capacity of the Hamira factory is too low to utilise all the available sugarcane. As a matter of fact the factory has never been able to procure the necessary quantity of cane to work to its full capacity.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g). The views of the growers and State Governments were taken into consideration before permission for shifting of the factory was granted.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: May I know whether it is a fact that last year, large quantities of sugar cane remained unutilised in this area?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no information at the moment.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: May I know whether the views of the growers were taken into account?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has said so already.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: If so, who was consulted, whether any association of growers or individual growers?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The Government was consulted. The recovery of sugarcane in that area was very low, and

the factory was a factory with a very large crushing capacity, and the required amount of sugar-cane was not available there. Therefore they made an application to shift the factory, to the U.P. Government, and that application was accepted.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: May I know whether these facts were obtained from the millowners or through the Government?

Shri Kidwai: These facts were supplied in the official returns we receive about the quantity of sugar the cost of manufacture every year, and the capacity of that factory to crush more etc.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: May I know whether the Government had ascertained that other causes like mismanagement were responsible for the low quantity of sugar?

Shri Kidwai: The owners of that factory are managing other factories also. They own one in Gorakhpur and one in Saharanpur, and we find that the crushing in those factories has always been very satisfactory.

Shri Kelappan: May I know why the sugar-content of the cane in that area is less than that in other areas?

Shri Kidwai: It may be climatic, or it may be that the state has not devoted itself to the improvement of the sugarcane seeds.

Shri Gopala Rao: May I know whether the arrears for the cane supplied last year have been paid by the sugar factory owners?

Shri Kidwai: Will the hon. member please repeat his question?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know whether the growers have been paid their arrears by the sugar factory owners.

Shri Gopala Rao: During 1952-53.

Shri Kidwai: I have not received any complaints, but if any complaint is received, it will be attended to. I hope and believe that the cane-growers have been paid.

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN DELHI

***808. Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone connections in Delhi (old and new) as on the 31st January, 1953;

(b) the total number of automatic telephones and the number of manual ones on the same date; and

(c) whether there is any scheme for the replacement of manual telephones in favour of automatic ones?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 15,810 telephone connections.

(b) *Main connections, Extensions.*
Automatic 8,716 6,155
Manual 791 148

(c) Yes.

Shri G. S. Singh: Is the priority for the allocation of telephones to private individuals governed by the date of application or by some other factor?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There are fixed rules for that purpose. There are various categories, like exempted categories and categories of persons who subscribe to the OYT scheme. We have got seven categories in all. Of course, date of application is also one of the governing factors.

Seth Govind Das rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are going away from the main question. Even the last question does not arise out of this question. Hon. members will kindly confine themselves to the questions asked, and not put questions as regards the manner in which allocation takes place and so on. This question relates only to the number of manual telephones replaced by automatic telephones and so on. That is all. No more questions on this. Next question.

ISLAND ALLOWANCES

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the "Island Allowances", granted to the Railwaymen at Mandapam and the Rameswaram islands and at Cochin Harbour (Willingdon Islands) are stopped;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that such islands allowances are given to the Central Government employees of other Departments;

(d) whether the cost of living in such islands is exorbitant when compared with that in adjacent areas;

(e) whether the "Provision Passes" given to the staff employed in such areas are curtailed; and

(f) what action has been taken on the representation on behalf of Railwaymen for the restoration of the privilege of passes and island allowances?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). No island allowance was granted to the railway staff at Mandapam and the Rameswaram island for

the past 25 years. A compensatory allowance which was being paid previously to the railway staff at Willingdon Island was stopped from 1-11-1947, in accordance with the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission that the grant of such allowances should follow the practice of the States.

(c) A compensatory allowance is being paid to certain of the Central Government employees working at Mandapam and the Rameswaram island. No such allowance is paid to the Central Government employees stationed at Willingdon island.

(d) Actual figures of cost of living at these places are not available but it is possible that they are comparatively more than in adjacent areas.

(e) No. Provision passes are allowed to the staff at Mandapam and Rameswaram; the area of availability of these passes has, however, been revised as facilities for obtaining provisions are now available at nearer stations.

(f) No representation has been received on behalf of railwaymen in these respects. The present arrangements regarding provision passes are considered adequate. The grant of compensatory allowance to the staff at Mandapam and the Rameswaram island will be examined.

Shri Nambiar: In view of the fact that other Government servants are given some compensatory allowance in Mandapam, Rameswaram etc., should not the same privilege be extended to the railwaymen also?

Shri Alagesan: I have already stated in reply to part (f), that the question will be examined.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether the provision passes which were issued up to Madura previously have now been curtailed to Ramnad?

Shri Alagesan: They have been curtailed up to Paramakudi, because those provisions are available at nearer places.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is what the hon. Minister has already stated.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether there are reports from the railwaymen that these provisions are not available at the stations either at Paramakudi or at stations prior to Paramakudi?

Shri Alagesan: For things that are not available, other passes are issued.

Shri Nambiar: In view of the fact that the Mandapam, Rameswaram, Cochin and Ernakulam harbour areas are places where there are no educational institutions, and the railway-