

## RAILWAY USERS' CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

\*877. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a meeting of the Railway Users' Consultative Committee of the Southern Railway was held at Madras in the second week of November, 1953?

(b) If so, what were the subjects discussed at the meeting?

(c) What were the decisions arrived at in this meeting?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A copy of the minutes of the meeting giving the subjects discussed and their disposal is placed on the Table of the House. [Copy placed in the Library. See No. S—205/53.]

**Shri Muniswamy:** May I know how many officials and non-officials attended this meeting?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** The full detail is given in the papers which are laid on the Table.

**Shri Raghavaiah:** May I know whether the non-officials are nominated or they will be elected to these bodies?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** These bodies are purely consultative and there is no election.

**Shri Muniswamy:** May I know, Sir, whether the recommendations and suggestions and decisions arrived at at this meeting will be implemented?

**Mr. Speaker:** Has he read the papers laid on the Table? Next question.

## SUGAR-CANE CULTIVATION

\*880. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what steps are being taken to improve the sucrose content of U.P. and Bihar sugar-cane?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** Research and development schemes are in progress in U.P. and Bihar as also in other States to improve the sucrose content in cane and also to obtain higher yields of cane per acre.

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** How long have these experiments been carried out?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** I want notice of that question.

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Have they effected any improvement so far?

**Shri Kidwai:** In some areas they have, because I find that last year the Bihar Government awarded prizes for highly developed sugarcane.

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Have Government any idea to apply the Deccan or Madras formula to Bihar?

**Shri Kidwai:** Yes, if we are sure that the results would be beneficial to the producer.

## BRIDGE OVER RIVER BHARATI

\*881. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether representations were made to him during his recent visit to Assam for the construction of a bridge over the river Bharati?

(b) What steps have been taken in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The hon. Member is referring presumably to the Bhareli river on the North Trunk Road in Assam. If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) An official request for a grant has just been received from the State Government and the matter is under consideration.

**Shri K. P. Tripathi:** What will be the cost involved?

**Shri Alagesan:** It is estimated to be Rs. 60 lakhs.

**Shri K. P. Tripathi:** What will be the grant and what will be the loan?