

is that no censure against the Lady Hardinge Medical College for the dismissal of anybody was made.

RAILWAY PORTERS LICENCE FEES

*997. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the income from the issue of licences to the porters on the Northern Railway during the current year; and

(b) the various objects on which this amount is being spent?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The licence fee realised from the licensed porters by the Northern Railway during the current year upto October was Rs. 64,703/-.

(b) This amount is being spent in meeting the cost of the supervisory organisation and uniforms supplied to the porters.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how many persons have paid the licensing fees?

Shri Alagesan: It has been introduced in five stations on the Northern Railway, and the number of licensed porters in all the stations comes to 1,635.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if warm uniforms are given to these porters?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether these porters are appointed by the contractors or by the railway authorities?

Shri Alagesan: They are not railway employees as such. They are licensed by the Railway.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no question of appointment.

Shri Boovaragasamy: May I know the conditions under which these licences are issued?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This question relates to the income from the issue of licences. Conditions may come later. Next question.

GUR

*998. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the quantity of gur produced in India during 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53 and its respective prices?

(b) Is it a fact that the price of gur this year is higher than in 1951 and 1952?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) The estimated production of gur in India during the years 1950-51, 1951-52, and 1952-53 was as follows:—

(Figures in lakh tons)

1950—51	1951—52	1952—53
32.54	32.40	28.77

A statement showing the monthly average prices of gur during the above-mentioned seasons in the markets of Hapur and Muzaffarnagar, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 68.]

(b) Yes. But the prices of gur have considerably declined during the last one month.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the estimated production this year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The final figures for this year's production we cannot have just now.

Shri K. P. Sinha: Is it a fact that gur is not getting markets due to transport difficulty and hence the prices are going down?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That is one of the reasons why prices go down generally.

Shri Thanu Pillai: Have the prices come down because of the ban on exports?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Sometimes that also contributes to bring down

prices. But there is no ban on the export of *gur* at present.

Shri Muniswamy: In which State do we get the maximum production of palm *gur*?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: *Gur* is produced mostly in U.P. Fifty per cent. of the production is in U. P.

Shri Muniswamy: Palm *gur*.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: How does it arise?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Last year when the price of sugarcane was reduced by 25 per cent. it was said that the sugar factories do not need more sugarcane. Although this factor was operating, may I know why the production of *gur* went down last year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The production of *gur* went down last year because in the western districts of U. P., where the major portion of *gur* is produced, the cane crop was very poor last year—particularly in Meerut Division.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I want to know why the production declined. The hon. Minister has said that the production of *gur* went down from 32.40 lakh tons in 1951-52 to 28.77 lakh tons last year. What was the reason?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Because, as has been explained, last year the crop in Meerut Division was very poor. Therefore the production of *gur* and sugar, both went down.

RABIES RESEARCH CENTRE

*999. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Pasteur Institute of India emphasized the urgent need for opening a Rabies Research Centre at Kasauli; and

(b) whether that Centre has since been opened?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether this is the first Centre opened for this particular kind of research or whether there is any other Centre previously existing?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: There is one in Coonoor. There may be others under other Departments.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know the total cost that has been incurred for building this Centre, and whether the Pasteur Institute has contributed any amount of that cost?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Yes. Sanction for an expenditure not exceeding Rs. 2.23,200 was given, and out of that amount Rs. 2 lakhs will be recovered from the Association of the Pasteur Institute of India.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Could we know the number of persons who have to die on account of rabies in India; and could I also know what specific points will be the subject matter of research in this Institute which is proposed at Kasauli?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The answer to the first part is that I have no information. As regards the second part, research on the improvement of the technique of manufacture of rabies vaccine, study of certain untoward reactions following the use of such vaccines and allied problems—these form the major activity of the Centre.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has any foreign expert aid been received or solicited for this Centre?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: No, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the same research is carried on both at Kasauli and at Coonoor?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Yes, Sir.