

## CAST IRON M. G. SLEEPERS

\*1249. Shri Wodeyar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mysore Iron and Steel Works, Bhadravathi supplied Cast Iron M. G. Sleepers to the Southern Railway in 1952-53;

(b) whether the factory has offered to supply M. G. Sleepers during 1953-54 also;

(c) whether the Railway Board has accepted the offer; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

## SUGAR PRICES

\*1210. Shri M. L. Agrawal: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the prevailing prices of (i) crystal sugar, (ii) *khandsari* sugar, and (iii) *gur*?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Two statements, one showing the daily average prices of *Gur* and *Khandsari* during the month of December, 1953 at Hapur, and the other showing the daily average prices of sugar at the various markets of India, are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 32.]

RAILWAY ACCIDENT BETWEEN  
BHEEMALGONDEE AND KUKRAKHAPA

\*1211. Shri Eswara Reddi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the causes of the accident on the 6th October, 1953 between Bheemalgondee and Kukrakhapa on the Narrow Gauge Section of the Eastern Railway;

(b) whether any enquiry has been held by the Inspector of Railways; and

(c) if so, what are his findings?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) An enquiry was held by a Committee of Junior Administrative Officers of the Railway; their finding is that the derailment was caused by fracture of outer rail.

(b) No, as this is not an accident into which an enquiry by the Government Inspector of Railways is obligatory according to rules.

(c) Does not arise.

## TAPIOCA

\*1212. Prof. Mathew: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer given to a supplementary question by Shri D. C. Sharma arising out of the reply given to starred question No. 1878 asked on the 6th May, 1953 and state whether Government have come to any decision regarding the offer of a million tons of tapioca flour by the All-Kerala Agricultural Development Association?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The offer of the All Kerala Agricultural Development Association was considered in consultation with the Travancore-Cochin Government. That Government have expressed doubts about the feasibility of exporting a million tons of this quantity from Travancore-Cochin and also their misgivings about allowing any large scale exports which would affect the food position in the State. In view of this, it is not proposed to accept the offer of the Association.

## KANGRA VALLEY RAILWAY

\*1213. Shri Hem Raj: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state by what date the construction of the dismantled Kangra Valley Railway will be completed?

(b) Have any representations been received by Government for the opening of new stations on this section?

(c) If so, have Government considered the desirability of opening stations at Ladhiara, Sullah and Saliana?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The restoration of the Nagrota-Joginder-nagar Section of the Kangra Valley Railway which was dismantled during the War is expected to be completed by February, 1954.

(b) The only representations received regarding the opening of new Railway Stations on the Kangra Valley Railway Section are those relating to the opening of a Station near Sullah and at Panchrukhi.

(c) It has been decided to open a station at Panchrukhi but not one near Sullah as it would be only about 3 miles from the adjoining station.

#### BONE-MEAL

\*1214. Shri Deegam: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is self-sufficient in bone-meal;

(b) what quantity of raw bones are exported annually and to what countries; and

(c) what quantity of bone-meal is annually imported and from which countries?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The export of raw bones is banned.

(c) Bone-meal is not imported.

#### HASSAN-MANGALORE RAILWAY LINE

\*1215. Shri Siddanajappa: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the answer given to starred question No. 1395 asked on the 18th September, 1953 and state whether preliminary survey work relating to the Hassan-Mangalore Railway line has been taken in hand?

(b) If so, what is the progress made so far?

(c) When is the survey report expected?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir. A traffic survey is being carried out and an aerial survey will also be carried out very shortly. The estimate for the Engineering ground survey is under sanction.

(b) and (c). The surveys have only recently been sanctioned and it is too early to say when the reports would be available for examination.

#### RAILWAY EMPLOYEES (SENIORITY)

\*1216. { Shri Siddanajappa:  
Shri E. S. Lal:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the preparation of combined seniority lists of Class III and Class IV staff of the re-grouped Railways has been completed; and

(b) what are the main principles on which the determination of seniority is based?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No, but the work is in progress.

(b) The main principles on which the combined seniority lists are to be drawn up are the length of service in the grade, permanent and officiating; and maintenance of *inter se* seniority in the original unit.

#### SHASTRI TRIBUNAL

\*1217. Shri Damodara Menon: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the reasons for delay in filling up vacancies in the Shastri Tribunal under Section 8 of the Industrial Disputes Act?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): There was never a vacancy among the Members of the Shastri Tribunal. It was an *ad hoc* Tribunal and ceased to exist after the Tribunal had given its main award on the 20th March 1953.

#### DEMURRAGE CHARGES

\*1218. Shri U. M. Trivedi: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that different