

not only for the contiguous areas of Bengal and Bihar but also for certain parts of U.P., Madhya Pradesh Maharashtra, Assam and Orissa.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that the lac industry is the only industry in Bihar, especially in the Palamau district where the method used is a very primitive one, and if so, what steps have been taken by the State Government with the help of the Central Government to see that the methods are changed to suit modern conditions?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We took the step to have a centre of the STC opened there at the headquarters of Palamau district, at Daltongunj. That centre will purchase seedlac, and the sticklac growers will dispose of their sticklac. The STC will purchase the entire thing there.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : लैक के व्यापार पर सरकार का एकाधिकार है जो लैक के ग्राहक हैं, उनको सात रुपये मिलते हैं और जब उसको बेचा जाता है तो अस्सी रुपये में बेचा जाता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि लैक के ग्राहक को उचित कीमत मिले, इसके लिये सरकार क्या कर रही है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : इसी विरोधी चीज को दूर करने के लिये यह व्यवस्था की गई है कि इन्हीं उत्पादकों की कोओप्रेटिव बना कर उनको सुविधा दी जाए कि वे स्टिक लैक का सीड लैक बना लें। जो दो तीन एक्सपोर्टर्स हैं उनके नियंत्रण को दूर करने के लिये स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन को इस व्यापार में आने के लिये निर्मात्रित किया गया है और उन्होंने इसको स्वीकार कर लिया है कि हम सारा सीड लैक बाहर मजबूत करने की कोशिश करेंगे।

Shri Heda: The main hurdle in the production of lac is lack of stability of prices. Therefore, as in regard to other commodities, are Government thinking of fixing some minimum price

so that the grower would know where he is.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: A minimum price has been fixed for seedlac. It is at the purchase centres at Daltongunj, Ranchi, Balrampur, Gondia and Bilaspur—Rs. 34 per maund. We have worked out the price of sticklac also. That, we think, will range between Rs. 13—16 per maund depending on the different qualities. Of course, I know that growers who live in the remote areas very seldom get the reasonable price. It is with a view to guaranteeing a reasonable price that we are taking all these steps.

Delhi Milk Scheme

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*888. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Milk Supply Scheme has not paid ground rent for its milk booths to the New Delhi Municipal Committee for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) and (b). The New Delhi Municipal Committee, asked for the payment on account of ground rent in respect of Milk Booths constructed by the Delhi Milk Scheme within the jurisdiction of the Committee in December 1962. The payment was made on the 31st March, 1963.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What was the amount paid, and why was it not paid earlier?

Shri Shinde: Actually, the bill was submitted only last December. The

amount claimed by the NDMC was about Rs. 24,723 and it was paid.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is it a fact that this ground rent is in some way responsible for the increase in the price of the milk sold? If so, what is being done to bring down the price of the milk so that it is within the reach of each one?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): As is well known, the milk supplied in Delhi through the Delhi Milk Scheme is the cheapest in the country. With regard to the ground rent, of course within the Corporation area we are paying only at the rate of Rs. 10 per booth, whereas the NDMC are demanding Rs. 18.25 per booth. We have taken up the matter with the NDMC also.

श्री यज्ञपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार ने इस तरह की कोई मूब की है कि इससे कृषि मंत्रालय का अपना कोई लाभ नहीं है और दिल्ली की जनता का ही इस में लाभ है, इसलिये यह जमीन जो है यह दिल्ली की जनता के लिये दी जाये और इस पर किसी किराये वगैरह की मांग करने की जरूरत नहीं है ?

Shri Shinde: Representation is being made to the Municipal Committee on the lines suggested by the hon. Member. Of course, the Milk Supply authority is agreeable to pay a reasonable rent. The contention is that excessive rent should not be charged.

Electrification of Indian Railways

*889. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the overall position of electrification at present in the Indian Railways;

(b) whether small items, ancillary to electrification like aluminium rods, solid core insulators, malleable cast

iron fittings are being indigenously manufactured; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library, see No. LT-1132/63].

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Could I know when electric trains will run over the entire area from Howrah to Moghalsarai, including the chord service between Howrah and Burdwan?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The programme is this: Waria docks—December, 1964; Moghalsarai to Allahabad—September, 1964; Allahabad to Kanpur—September, 1965.

Mr. Speaker: He wanted to know about Howrah-Moghalsarai.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It will be completed in about two year's time.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I find from the statement that in spite of efforts by the Railway Ministry to develop indigenous sources, a substantial proportion of items ancillary to electrification are still procured from abroad. May I know when all these ancillary items would be indigenously manufactured?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: As has been mentioned in the statement, the percentage was 34 and now it has come down to 12, and efforts are being continuously made to reduce this percentage still further.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Are any comparative statistics available of the cost of electrification per route kilometre, in different countries of the world, and if the cost of electrification in India is very high compared to other countries, what are the reasons therefor?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The question does not arise out of this. I would require notice.