

rial for carriage from Imphal to Dimapur and as such approximately 15 vehicles run empty every day from Imphal to Dimapur.

- (ii) The present maximum fare of Rs. 5 per passenger between Imphal and Dimapur over a distance of 134 miles is low.
- (iii) The vehicles on this route run in convoys under military escort due to the prevailing law and order situation. The military authorities do not run any convoy on Sundays, Wednesdays and other important public holidays. The Manipur State Transport is, therefore, able to operate on this route for not more than 250 days in the year. This factor alone reduces the revenue of the undertaking by about 1/3rd without any corresponding decrease in pay of establishment, depreciation, interest on capital, etc.

The following steps are being taken to improve the working of the Manipur State Transport in order to earn profits:

- (i) The Manipur Administration is examining the question of raising the maximum fare limit of Rs. 5 per passenger on the Imphal Dimapur route.
- (ii) Ways and means of securing sufficient load for carriage from Imphal to Dimapur by competing with the private operators is also under the consideration of the Administration.
- (iii) Services on uneconomic routes are being withdrawn and the frequency of service on other routes is being suitably revised on the basis of the traffic offering.

Shri G. Mohanty: As it is a continued loss what steps were taken after its detection in the first year and the second year?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The losses are there because we have got to keep the service running compulsorily and because of certain circumstances in that area. Between Imphal and Dimapur the vehicles have often to run almost empty as many as 15 per day. They are passenger vehicles. Apart from that the quantity of goods traffic over this line is not quite adequate but the services have got to be kept running. We are taking steps to see whether the fares can be revised upwards. We have also taken steps to secure sufficient load for carriage from Imphal to Dimapur which is the main using line. Services on uneconomic routes are being withdrawn.

Shri G. Mohanty: May I know whether these steps were taken only in the year after detection in the first year and also may I know what steps were taken after the second year, third year and the fourth year?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I cannot say yearwise. But these are, broadly, the results of certain experience.

Shri Maheswar Naik: As many as fifteen buses are said to be running empty every day. May I know why it is that these buses were allowed to run empty and these losses allowed to continue?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The service is kept running between Imphal and Dimapur. The service is kept running under the protection of military convoys. We can run it only on 250 days out of 365 days. It is because of this.

Sugar Trade in Delhi

*585. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar trade has been licensed in Delhi; and

(b) if so the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to keep a watch over their activities.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how the Government is keeping a watch over their activities? What agency has the Government employed to keep a watch over it. Is the whole thing to be done from the office of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture?

Shri Shinde: Under the provisions of the order the dealers are required to submit the returns, to the licensing authority, of the stocks received for delivery every fortnight. Moreover, they are also required to issue to every customer a correct receipt, or an invoice, as the case may be, giving full particulars of the transaction. The traders are also required to keep a duplicate of the same to be available for inspection on demand by the licensing authorities or any other officers appointed on their behalf.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Ministry has made any surprise check so far to see that all the noble intentions put forward in this communique have been put into effect?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): Now the licences are only being issued.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know whether it is a fact that there has been hoarding of sugar in Delhi and its dealers are bringing sugar from UP?

Shri Shinde: The licensing order has been issued throughout India, in most of the States. It was not a question of Delhi alone. Moreover, these orders have been issued with a view to keep a watch over it so

that in the days of emergency shortages may not develop.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: Was there hoarding?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is exactly to know whether there is hoarding or not. That is why licensing provisions have been introduced.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether in spite of the licensing system a lot of profiteering is going on in the sugar trade in Delhi?

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to the price I have got the figures with me. In the third week of March, the wholesale price of sugar per maund is Rs. 42.44 nP. and the retail price per seer is Rs. 1.10 nP.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know whether this licensing of these sugar dealers will mean that there is some sort of control on the price of sugar, both wholesale and retail?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In fact, we want to be prepared. If any such emergency or necessity arises, we should have the necessary mechanism and the licensing system is supposed to be the one for that.

श्री विश्राम प्रसाद : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस लाइसेंस से शर्कर के मिलने पर और उस के दाम पर क्या असर पड़ा है, और क्या सरकार ऐसे कदम उठा रही है जिस से ब्लैक मार्केटिंग रुक जाय ? क्या दुकानों पर सूची टांगने की भी कोई व्यवस्था की जा रही है ?

Shri Shinde: As far as the Government is aware, it has a very salutary effect on the stability of prices.

World Food Programme

*586. { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:

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

(a) how much of its share of F.A.O.'s "World Food Programme"