

(b) if so, the terms and condition of the agreement;

(c) the prices at which sugar and cotton will be sold and purchased by each party; and

(d) the time by which this barter deal would take place?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) U.S.A. has agreed to import 50,000 short tons of sugar during the first half of 1962 against purchase of cotton.

(c) Sugar/cotton are to be sold/purchased at market prices through normal trade channels.

(d) While sugar has to reach U.S.A. by 30th June, 1962, cotton is to be imported by 31st December, 1962.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether these normal trade channels include the State Trading Corporation also or they are only private channels?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The State Trading Corporation does not come into the picture at all.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What is the amount of cotton that we get in return for the sugar? Will that meet the shortage that we are having in this country?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The quantity that we would get is about 44,000 bales of long staple cotton. It will not be sufficient to meet our requirements.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if any other efforts are made to meet the shortage of cotton in this country?

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is more concerned with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The shortfall has been placed at about 17 lakh bales and arrangements have, I think, been made to import about 6.5 lakhs of bales.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah: May I know whether the price of cotton that we import from the United States compares favourably with the price of cotton bought from other countries?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Certainly, Sir; it will stand comparison. We can otherwise import from other countries. We are bound to import only these 44,000 bales.

National Highways in Kerala

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*659. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
 Shri Imbichibava:

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the projects under the National Highway Scheme included in the Second Five Year Plan in Kerala;

(b) the amount allotted for the purpose and the amount utilized;

(c) how many of these projects were executed by the end of 1961-62, the first year of the Third Year Plan and how many of them are still incomplete; and

(d) the overall percentage of achievement in Kerala in regard to National Highway development during Second Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 16].

(b) (i) Amount allotted—Rs. 104.95 lakhs.

(ii) Amount utilised—Rs. 83.52 lakhs.

(c) (i) 24 works have been executed.

(ii) 38 works are in progress.

(d) 80 per cent.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: In the statement it is said that some works were carried over from the First Plan to the Second Plan.

They are like improving or widening the road, etc. May I know why so many items like these had not been completed even after ten years?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): So far as completion of the work is concerned, we have to depend upon the agency of the State P.W.D. There are as many as 82 programmes, including 24 carried forward from the First Plan. We judge their performance by the amount they spend and that comes to about 80 per cent.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know whether any enquiry has been made why the State P.W.D. cannot complete these works such as the improvement of the roads for such a long time?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Because there has been a backlog which had been pending for a long number of years involving construction of new roads, improvement of national highways, construction of bridges and culverts, etc. The State P.W.D. has to cope with the demand as best as possible within the limitations of resources, trained personnel, etc.

Shri P. Kunhan: From the statement I find that in respect of five items of work sanction has not been given. What is the reason for this delay?

Shri Bhagavati: The estimate for these works has not yet been received from the State P.W.D.

Shri Imbichibava asked a question in Malayalam.

Shri Nambiar: I shall translate it. What is the reason for not giving sanction for items 52 to 57 mentioned in the list?

Shri Bhagavati: It is not only for these items that sanction has not been given; there are other items also. For about 20 projects the estimates have not been received.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know why the amounts that had been sanctioned had not been spent?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have said that they have got their own State programme also to fulfil. Then they have got the national highway programmes to fulfil. Unless and until we have our own executing agency for the implementation of these projects, we would not be in a position to say anything about it.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Question No. 660.

Mr. Speaker: The Deputy Minister of Railways.—If any hon. Member is not attentive, I pass on to the next question, but if the hon. Minister is not attentive, I do not know what I should do.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I am sorry, Sir. I apologise.

Wagons for lifting stocks at Bhilai Steel Plant

*660. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have been able to provide requisite number of wagons to lift the accumulated stocks of finished products at the Bhilai Steel Project; and

(b) how far railways have been able to clear the stock?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The despatch of finished products from Bhilai Steel Works during January 1962 to March 1962 has been as follows:—

January 1962	79,894 Tonnes
February 1962	94,710 Tonnes
March 1962	101,240 Tonnes