

question of further investigations is under consideration.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: May I know whether some private company has been entrusted to examine it, or, whether it is done by the State authorities?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir. This examination is being conducted by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission of the Government of India.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: How many centres have been located in the year 1957 for petroleum deposit in Northern India?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Not a single one so far.

Ban on Prostitution

*90. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme designed to put an end to prostitution is being sponsored by the Central Government with the help of the Central Social Welfare Board;

(b) whether any State has proposed to introduce such scheme; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to render any financial assistance to the States on this account?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) No.

(b) No

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether any specific measures have been suggested by any State Government for eradicating this social evil?

Shrimati Alva: All the States are supposed to have one care home for these women. Some of the States have already started on this scheme and the Central Government also finances 50 per cent. of the cost in the case of the various States that have taken up this scheme.

Shri Panigrahi: Has there been any census of prostitutes in India?

Shrimati Alva: The census of prostitutes is very difficult to take.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Overcrowding on Trains

*37. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the steps taken so far after July, 1957 to remove overcrowding on the North-Eastern Railway specially in the third class?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix 1, annexure No. 14]

Influenza Epidemic

*38. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports of flu-epidemic recurring in any of the parts of the country have been received;

(b) if so, which are those parts and the extent of attack and casualties reported;

(c) whether medical opinion in India confirms the view that a second wave of flu of a very severe type may hit India this winter; and

(d) the steps, if any being taken to meet the situation?

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

(d) All the State Governments have, however, been alerted as a precautionary measure of the possibility of the occurrence of a second wave and they have been asked:

- (i) to stock-pile drugs at convenient places;
- (ii) to make arrangements for isolation and treatment of influenza cases; and
- (iii) to ensure that necessary regulations to declare influenza as a notifiable disease are promulgated as soon as any recrudescence or a second wave of the disease is apprehended.

2. Manufacture of influenza vaccine in four centres in India.

Rice Purchase in Punjab

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

(a) the total quantity of rice which Government propose to purchase in the Punjab State;

(b) the rate at which the stock is proposed to be purchased;

(c) the stock Government propose to buy from other States; and

(d) the rate of purchase?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Government propose to purchase the entire surplus of Dara and Begmi rice in Punjab.

(b) Dara rice—Rs. 16-8-0 per maund bagged rice.

Begmi rice—Rs. 18-0-0 per maund bagged rice.

(c) So far about 40,000 tons of rice has been purchased each in Orissa and Andhra. Procurement in Andhra is going on and Government propose to purchase whatever stocks become available without disturbing the market.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 15].

Foodgrain Prices

*40. { **Shri Keshava:**
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri A. S. Saigal:
Shri S. V. Ramaswami:
Shri Narasimhan:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 46 on the 16th July, 1957 and state:

(a) the further steps if any, since taken to reduce the level of prices of food stuffs in the country; and

(b) if so, with what effect?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha indicating the steps taken to reduce the level of foodgrains prices in the country since 16th July, 1957 [See Appendix I, annexure No. 16].

(b) The measures adopted have proved fairly effective in controlling the prices.

Eastern Regional Committee on Food and Agriculture

*41. { **Shri Subodh Hasda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Eastern Regional Committee on Food and Agriculture met at Darjeeling during September, 1957; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken to improve and expand the Research stations for various items?