

is open to the grower to supply paddy at that price.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: In view of the answer given by the hon. Minister saying that they are incurring a loss in respect of the supply from Andhra to the other deficit areas, may I know what is the actual loss that has been incurred by supplying food to Kerala and Madras States?

Shri A. P. Jain: What I said was that we are suffering a loss in making the purchases and in making the sales. The sale prices are fixed at Rs. 16 per maund for rice, and on the whole rice is being purchased at a higher price which, together with the cost of transport, preservation and other things, means quite a substantial loss to the Government. I cannot say what this loss will work out to in the case of a particular State.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know if the Minister has received any letter from the Andhra Government dissenting from the price fixed for rice, and if so, what are the alternative prices suggested by the Andhra Government?

Shri A. P. Jain: The Food Minister of Andhra met me here and he had a discussion with me.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Not the Food Minister but the Andhra Government.

Shri A. P. Jain: He represents the Andhra Government. He said that the prices fixed by the Government of India were too low, and he wanted me to tell him the basis of fixing the prices. I explained the whole thing to him, and I said the prices could not be raised.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What is to follow?

Electricity Board for Punjab

*196. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for setting up an Electricity Board for the Punjab State has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) The Government of Punjab have notified in their Gazette Extraordinary dated the 30th January, 1958, their decision to set up an Electricity Board with effect from the 31st March, 1958.

(b) The draft rules, to be framed by the Government of Punjab under Section 78 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, have been published in the Punjab Government Gazette Extraordinary dated the 30th January, 1958. Other details are being finalised by the State Government.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know whether there is any proposal to set up joint boards for Punjab, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan?

Shri S. K. Patil: There is no proposal of that type.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether any decision has been taken by Government to lower the rate for the supply of electricity for the purpose of lift irrigation?

Shri S. K. Patil: That does not arise out of this question.

Derailment of Train

*198. { **Shri V. C. Shukla:**
Shri Vajpayee:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigation into the cause of the derailment of the Down Parcel Train which took place at Morena Station Yard in Bhind District of Madhya Pradesh on the 23rd December, 1957 has been completed; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons in general for this mishap?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Tilting of the Outer (left) lead rail off the turnout at the station caused by the excessive speed of the train.

Shri V. C. Shukla: May I know the amount of loss suffered by the railways, the amount of loss suffered by the private parties and the amount of compensation paid to the private parties as a result of this accident?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The loss suffered by the railways is Rs. 31,425; and in respect of public property, the figure is Rs. 2,000. As far as I am aware, no claims have yet been paid.

Shri V. C. Shukla: May I know whether the dacoits had anything to do with it?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Dacoits had nothing to do with it. It was only due to excessive train speed on the "turn-out".

Supply of Steel to Hindustan Shipyard

*199. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that the supply position of steel to the Hindustan Shipyard Company was unsatisfactory throughout the last year; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to remedy the situation?

The Ministry of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) (a): Yes, the position was unsatisfactory in the year 1956-57.

(b) The situation was overcome by arranging adequate supplies of steel from abroad by placing a bulk order. At present there is no shortage of steel in the shipyard.

Shri Heda: May I know the loss in production during the latter part of 1957, owing to the lack of adequate supplies of steel in the Shipyard?

Shri Raj Bahadur: During the first six months of 1957 there was, perhaps, some slowing down in production. I cannot give the exact figure.

Shri Heda: In part (b) of the question, I had enquired as to what specific steps are going to be taken to remedy the situation. May I know whether some standard articles of steel have been envisaged so that orders can be placed well in advance, and bulk supplies could be obtained, and if so, the quantum involved?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The position was reviewed in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and it was put to the Shipyard that if they could put their orders in bulk, arrangements could be made. Subsequently, this was done. And as much as 5,500 tons of structurals in standard sizes have since been put in a bulk order, and 4,000 tons out of these were proposed to be imported from abroad and 1,500 tons to be planned on the Tatas. This was for structurals. Then, for plates also, there was standardisation, and as much as 28,000 tons of plates are proposed to be imported.

Shri Ranga: Have Government enquired into the causes for such short supply of steel as a result of which the production had been very badly affected, and have they taken any action against the officers who were at fault?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The position is reviewed from time to time well in advance by the board. It was only in June, 1956, that is, six months before the actual shortage was experienced, that the position was reviewed by the board, and it was then found that the orders already placed by them might not materialise on account of certain difficulties. That was not a thing, I believe, for which anybody was guilty.

Shri Heda: Since these shipyards need some quantity of imported steel also, may I know whether the exact quantity of imported steel has been made available to the shipyards?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I said, now there is no shortage, and up to the end of 1959, there is not expected to be any shortage. The position will continue to be reviewed well in time.