

Shri Yajnik: May I know why the Bombay-Ahmedabad national highway has not been completed after all these years?

Mr. Speaker: How do these questions arise out of this?

Shri Yajnik: National highways in Bombay.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member would kindly read the question: (a) Whether any new National Highways are to be constructed in Second Five Year Plan in Bombay.

Shri Yajnik: This is a new one because it is not finished yet. It has been hanging fire for the last 20 years. It was first announced to be made in 1937 when first the Ministry took charge.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister may satisfy the Member.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not know whether I will be able to satisfy the hon. Member. I can only inform him that the Bombay State has as many as 9 National Highways criss-crossing the area. The Ahmedabad-Kandla National Highway No. 8A happens to be one. We get finances as I said out of the grants sanctioned by Parliament and we are trying to spend them on the National highways in our charge.

Shri Yajnik: I am asking about the Bombay-Ahmedabad highway.

Mr. Speaker: Is there that highway?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As far as my list shows, there are: Bombay-Agra; Bombay-Madras-Bangalore; Bombay-Calcuta; Banaras—Cape Comorin via Nagpur; Bombay-Delhi via Jaipur; Ahmedabad-Kandla; Rajkot-Porbandar; Poona-Vijayawada-Hyderabad; Nasik-Poona. These are the highways.

Mr. Speaker: It is not there.

Shri Assar: When will the amounts be allotted to the State Government?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They are allotted from year to year within the provisions of the Budget.

Mr. Speaker: Next question: Shri Achar.

Shri P. R. Patel: As has been stated by the hon. Minister.....

Mr. Speaker: I have already called the next question.

Sign Boards on Railway Stations

*1251. **Shri Achar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sign boards of the railway stations between Manjeshwar and Kasargode stations have been recently changed from Kannada language into Malayalam;

(b) whether it is a fact that Kannada was used till recently ever since this railway line was opened in 1906; and

(c) the reasons why this change was made?

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

(b) Names in Kannada script have been there for a long time.

(c) A change was made consequent on the inclusion of this area in Kerala State.

Kannada script in sign boards is however, being restored in view of the fact that this language has also been accepted by the Kerala Government as a Regional language of the area.

Shri Achar: May I know in which of the stations they are going to be restored?

Mr. Speaker: Has he got a list of these stations?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: How many?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Five. The names of the stations are: Kasargod, Kudubu halt, Kumbla, Mangalapadi and Manjeshwar.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: The Malayalam names have been removed and Kan-nada restored. Next question.

Non-payment of Sugar-cane Price

*1252. { **Shri Bishwanath Roy:**
Shri Ramji Verma:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large amount of sugar-cane price has not been paid by the sugar mills to the growers who supplied sugarcane to the factories in 1956-57 season;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government for its payment soon; and

(c) whether a statement regarding the amounts which were to be paid to growers by different sugar factories after the crushing season 1956-57 will be laid on the Table?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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

Shri Bishwanath Roy: In view of the statement laid on the Table of the House which shows that about a crore of rupees as sugar-cane price was to be paid to the growers, may I know why the Government was so indifferent towards payment of the price to the growers?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We are constantly attending to this question. We are very vigilant also. The House will be interested to know that the arrears of cane price outstanding on 1-11-57 formed about 1.4 per cent. of the total price of cane purchased during 1956-57 season. It has come down to 23 per cent. now. It cannot be said that the outstanding arrears are much.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know why the Government is not taking any steps for prompt payment of the sugar-cane price to the growers who have to pay interest on the loans that they have taken from different agencies?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We have taken prompt steps. As the House knows, the Central Government itself has passed the Sugarcane Control Order, 1955, by which the price of sugar-cane has to be paid within 14 days of delivery.

Shri C. D. Pande: Is the Government aware that three years back in certain areas in Tarai and Doiwala, Dehra Dun District, a cut of two annas per maund was made on the assumption that the cane was of an inferior variety and the recovery was too low? Later on, it was found that the recovery was normal and the Government was pleased to restore that two annas per maund cut. May I know whether that money has been paid or not and if not, why?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Some of the millers have paid the money. Some have not. We have recently told them that if they do not pay it immediately, then, we shall have to take action against them.

Shri Tyagi: One of the mills where the two annas was deducted is in Doiwala, Dehra Dun. That mill is being worked by the Ministry itself and that mill is giving an average much more than any other mills in U. P. May I know if they, from the earnings of this year intend to pay back to the peasant his two annas?

Shri A. P. Jain: No. Prices are determined from year to year. Whatever price was determined in a particular year, that is paid accordingly.

Shri Tyagi: I want to know about the arrears of that year when two annas was deducted. Because the mill-owner has been dispossessed