

TELCO, TEXMACO and Hindustan Motors, which are dealing in diesel engines. They have been asked to collaborate with foreign firms and put up proposals for the manufacture of diesel locomotives in India.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: I want to know which are the foreign firms that have been invited in this regard.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Keshava

Shri Keshava. In view of the expanding programme for electrification of railways in our country is there any scheme for undertaking the production of electric locomotives in Chittaranjan and TELCO factories?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram) That is what the Deputy Minister has just explained—what steps we are taking for the manufacture of these electric locomotives in the country.

Dr. Sushila Nayar Have any steps been taken to decide as to what proportion of engines we want run on electricity and on diesel? I ask the question because we are likely to produce more and more electricity in this country, whereas diesel oil has to be imported.

Shri Jagjivan Ram. Any decision on fixing the proportion of electric, diesel and steam locomotives will be too premature. But as many diesels as we are having or will have will be utilised in the foreseeable future, even if all the schemes of generating electricity go through.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty Is the collaboration which has been allowed for the manufacture of diesel engines with foreign firms going to be in the form of joint ventures with foreign capital or participation in the actual company itself?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan. That is a matter which would be dealt with by another Ministry, not the Railway Ministry.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan Do Government propose to hold any interest in shares in the firms manufacturing diesel?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No, there is no intention to have any share in them. They will be the manufacturers and we may purchase from them, subject to their prices being competitive and the products being according to our specifications.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: May I know whether all these locomotives, electric and diesel, proposed to be manufactured are to be only for broad gauge or whether any metre gauge locomotives also will be allowed to be manufactured?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan They will be for both.

Shri P C Bose What are the comparative expenses between a diesel locomotive and steam locomotive on a mileage basis?

Shri Jagjivan Ram Certainly diesels have certain advantages over steam locomotives in speed and other things. We get more track capacity if we operate by diesel than by steam.

Shri Tangamani May I know whether the manufacture of these diesel locomotives will be left entirely in the hands of the three private companies TELCO, TEXMACO and Hindustan Motors or whether some at least will be manufactured in Chittaranjan?

Shri Jagjivan Ram No, there is no intention to manufacture diesel in Chittaranjan. Chittaranjan will be carrying on manufacture of steam locomotives and certain mechanical parts of electric locomotives.

Price of Raw Jute

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*64	{	Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan
		Shri Nagi Reddy
		Shri P G Sen
		Shri Barman
		Shri S. C. Samanta
		Shri Jhulan Sinha
		Shri Vajpayee
		Shri A. K. Gopalan

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

(a) whether the Indian Central Jute

Committee had recommended the fixing of minimum prices for raw Jute;

(b) if so, what decision was taken by Government; and

(c) if any decision was taken, what was the reaction on the price of raw Jute?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes

(b) and (c). As a measure of price support, Government have authorized the State Trading Corporation to purchase jute in the producing areas through Co-operative Societies. It is too early yet to assess the reaction of this measure on the price of raw jute. However, raw jute prices have shown a slight firming up of late.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What exactly has been the increase in the prices of raw jute and mesta during the period the State Trading Corporation entered the market?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In some of the markets, there has been an improvement of about Re 1 and a little more in the prices of both mesta and jute.

Shri Vajpayee: What other steps do Government propose to take to see that the production of jute does not go down next year as a result of decline in prices?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The following are some of the steps which have been approved by the Cabinet: ban on the import of varieties of jute which are grown in India in sufficient quantities, jute mills would hold stocks of jute to the extent of about 4 months' consumption, permission to export a limited quantity of about 50,000 bales outside India, and provision of facilities for quick transport of raw jute from distant producing areas to the mills.

Shri Barman: What is the minimum price that has been arrived at or approved by Government, and what are the data on which this price has been arrived at?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have not yet fixed any minimum price.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the minimum price recommended by the Indian Central Jute Committee was accepted by Government, and whether this price fixation had the sanction of Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: As I have already stated, no minimum price has yet been fixed.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether it is a fact that co-operative societies and traders' associations requested Government as early as September/October to export the surplus jute, but the Government did not decide the question till January, by which time the cultivators were forced to sell their jute at a very low price? If so, I want to know whether this was on account of the wrong decision of the Government about the jute crop or of the advice of the Indian Jute Mills' Association.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): We are not aware of any such representation, because such representation must have come to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. That question may be addressed to that Ministry.

Shri Bimal Ghose: May I know what is the quantity of jute that has been purchased by the State Trading Corporation so far, and if nothing at all or nothing much has been purchased, what is the firming up of price due to?

Shri A. P. Jain: Some jute has been purchased.

Shri Bimal Ghose: What is the quantity?

Shri A. P. Jain: I cannot give the exact quantity because that is being purchased by the State Trading Corporation which is not my Ministry.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that the policy regarding the steps taken for trying to firm up prices was decided at such a

stage when the poorest of the cultivators had already come into the market, could I know whether the Government propose to come forward with a jute purchase policy well in advance before the jute comes into the market?

Shri A. P. Jain: We have taken a decision for the present year and we have stated what that decision is

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Construction of Bridges on Hingoli-Khandwa Line

*63. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the number of major bridges that have yet to be constructed on the Hingoli-Khandwa rail link,

(b) whether the required girders have since been received, and

(c) when the construction of all the major bridges is likely to be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Thirty four

(b) 103 girders have been received and 66 are still due.

(c) By October, 1960

Institute for Afforestation

*65. **Shrimati Ila Palchondhuri:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for establishing an Institute for Afforestation of arid and semi-arid zones in India is under the consideration of the Government of India, and

(b) if so, the progress made in finalising it?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). On the advice of an expert from the UNESCO, a scheme has been prepared for expanding the scope of the existing Central Desert Afforestation Research Station at Jodhpur into a Central Arid Zone Research Institute, in collaboration with the UNESCO's major project on the subject and with technical and financial assistance from that Organisation. The financial and organizational details are still under consideration.

Automatic Telephone Exchanges

*66. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Tangamani:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state.

(a) whether some more Automatic Telephone Exchanges are likely to be established during 1959-60;

(b) if so, in which cities;

(c) the expenditure involved, and

(d) cities where this work has already been taken up?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) Yes

(b) to (d) Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha

Statement

(b) and (c) New Automatic Exchanges likely to be brought into service in 1959-60 with cost particulars

Sl No.	Name of Exchange	City	Total estimated cost Rs.
1	Coimbatore	Coimbatore	34,89,700
2	Jullundur	Jullundur	20,82,000
3	Jaipur	Jaipur	40,08,000
4	Agra	Agra	41,97,000
5	Asansol	Asansol	16,38,900
6	Jorbagh	New Delhi	56,63,500

(d) Work has already been taken up at all the places mentioned at part (b) of the answer