

Punjab Government as the sugar factories in Punjab were facing premature closure on account of diversion of sugarcane to manufacture of gur, due to its high price. Three out of six working factories in Punjab are co-operative sugar factories. This premature closure would have resulted in heavy losses to co-operative sugar factories and consequently to sugarcane growers who are share-holders of these Mills.

(b) The order is not likely to have any adverse effect on the growing of sugarcane in Punjab.

Food Poisoning in Kerala

*1183. { Shri Kuttikrishnan Nair:
Shri Maniyangadan:
Shri V. Eacharan:
Shri Nallakoya:
Shri Assar:
Shri Vajpayee:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a serious food poisoning incident occurred in Kozhikode, Kerala State on the 25th February, 1959 involving hospitalization of many persons.

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is caused by the use of a portion of the same contaminated stock of foodstuff which had caused loss of many lives last year in various parts of Kerala;

(c) if so, the details regarding the above incident; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter? e

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): (a) to (d). Twenty six persons (14 men, 5 women and 7 children) who had taken tea from two shops in Kozhikode were taken ill and were admitted to Hospitals on the 25th February, 1959. The male cases were admitted to the District Hospital and the female and children cases were admitted to the Women's and Children's Hospital,

Kozhikode. The men were discharged on the 26th and the women and children on the 28th February, 1959 from the hospitals. No deaths have been reported. The cause of the incident is being investigated by the State Government. The suspected articles have been seized by the State Government. Samples of vomit of the patients and of the suspected articles are being analysed and the results of the analysis are awaited.

Chlorinated Water Supply in Delhi

*1184. Ch. Brahm Prakash: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contents of Chlorine in the water supply at Delhi has been increased recently; and
(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) This has been done as a precautionary measure against pollution of raw water due to the following reasons:—

- (1) A large force of labour is working near the intake wells for construction of the barrage and for digging intake channels.
- (ii) cultivation of melon in the river bed upstream of Wazirabad is carried at present

Khosla Committee Report

*1185. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 269 on the 27th November, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the Khosla Committee appointed to go into the conditions of Railway Bridges and to suggest measures for improving the same has since submitted its preliminary report;