

same day due to slips on the railway-line between Rampur Dumra and Link Cabin.

(c) All the affected railway lines have been repaired and traffic resumed.

(d) The approximate expenditure incurred for repairing the damages due to the slips between Tal Junction and Link Cabin, Rampur Dumra and Tal Junction (new up line) and Rampur-Dumra and Link Cabin lines was Rs. 97,000. The new line section between Tal Junction and Link Cabin, which was seriously affected, was blocked from 18th August to 5th November, 1959.

**Shri Shree Naryan Das:** What was the nature of the damage? May I know whether the line was washed away or the line was sunk?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** There was very heavy rain. This embankment is very high. Therefore, there was some amount of washing away and the line slipped.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** The cost of this work seems to be very high. May I know what was the estimate for this repair work and whether the actual cost exceeded the estimated amount to a great extent?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** I do not know about the estimate, but the actual cost is Rs. 97,000

**The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** Sir, as the hon. Member is aware, this was a new line. There was a large earth formation and high embankments. In August this year there was heavy rainfall in that area and earth work at many places was washed away. About seven lakhs c. ft. of earth was therefore used and all that had to be transported from a distant place because earth was not available nearby as all the area was flooded. Large quantity of boulders also had to be used with the result that the cost increased because it was to be done as an emergency work.

### Sugar Production

\*929. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an estimate of the sugar production by 1961 on the basis of past experience has been made;

(b) whether any shortfall of the target contemplated in the Second Five Year Plan period is expected under this estimate; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to meet the deficit?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and c). Do not arise.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know whether the Government has made any estimate of the total production of sugar by the year 1960, if not up to 1961; and, if so, may I know what it is?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** That estimate also has not been made.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** May I know whether Government have considered the problem in respect of the major factor in sugar production, that is, the cane grower; if so, may I know whether Government have seen the demands put up by cane growers in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and they intend to meet their demands by fixing sugar cane price at Rs. 2 a maund?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Sugar production depends on various factors. Firstly, there is the installed capacity. Secondly, there is the availability of sugar cane to the factories. My hon. friend raised a point about incentives. Recently, as the hon. House is aware, the price of sugarcane has been increased from Rs. 1|7|- to Rs. 1|10|-. Certain other incentives have also been given. Government think that those incentives are adequate, and it is not proposed to increase the price to Rs. 2 as has been suggested by the hon. Member.

**Shri B. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that a strike is going on from yesterday by the sugarcane growers; if so, whether any steps have been taken to talk to the representatives of sugarcane growers and arrive at a settlement so that it may not affect our sugar production this year?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I have also seen certain Press reports with regard to the strike that has been organised by certain organisations which have not been recognised. There has not been any strike notice received so far from any recognised union or association of cane growers. I might also say that the strike move is ill advised and Government would not be in a position to accede to their request.

**Some Hon. Members** rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. I am not going to allow strike and other things to be brought in as a side issue. This relates to sugar production.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** The hon. Deputy Minister said that the strike is not being conducted by some recognised association. May I know....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. I am not going to allow that.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** May I know what is the criterion.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Everybody starts a strike. Is it the hon. Member's desire that the hon. Minister here must run to the spot and see to it?

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** Mills in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been closed down and there is scarcity of sugar.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Let it be. Sugar is not such an essential commodity. Nobody will die of starvation if sugar is not there. I am not going to allow such supplementaries.

Almost every day the question is raised. It would appear as if we are taking sides with sugarcane growers, the sugar industry and so on (Interruption). Order, order. Let us starve for want of sugar for some time (Interruptions). All that I am requesting hon. Members to see is, we ought not to create an impression that we are taking sides either with sugarcane growers or with the sugar industry. The main consideration for this is the essential need of the community. If somebody wants to hold the community at ransom let them suffer; for some time we shall do without sugar altogether (Interruptions). Order, order. I am not going to allow hon. Members to indirectly bring in other issues and then try to help the sugarcane growers as if we all will die they do not produce sugar. (Interruptions). I am not worried. I am not going to allow any advantage to be taken as a side issue with respect to every relating to cane growers. The price question is raised every time. Let us give away Rs. 100 per maund of sugar and starve the rest. This kind of special pleading for a particular interest is going on here, as if we have no other business other than this (Interruptions).

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** There is scarcity of sugar.

**Mr. Speaker:** It does not matter; let us go without sugar.

**Shri Tangamani:** I would like to ask.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

**Shri Tangamani:** I would like to ask a question about sugarcane production.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have proceeded to the next question.

**Shri Tangamani:** The whole question is about sugarcane production.

**Mr. Speaker:** We are not on sugarcane production, we are on sugar.