

(b) how many milk depots have so far been started?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) About 1,500 maunds daily.

(b) 280.

Railway Wagon Manufacturing Programme

*414. { **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
 { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
 { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's Railway wagon manufacturing programme is heavily behind schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent of shortfall; and

(d) the nature of the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir, but not heavily.

(b) (i) Delay in the supply of steel.

(ii) Change over to wagons of new design involving preparation and finalisation of new designs after test of prototypes for the wagon builders to tool up for the new type of design.

(c) The shortfall is likely to be of the order of 12,000 wagons in terms of terms of 4-wheelers, at the end of the 2nd Five Year Plan.

(d) The following steps have been taken to increase the outturn from indigenous wagon builders:

(i) Import of sections of steel not obtainable in sufficient quantity from indigenous sources.

(ii) Constant liaison with Iron and Steel Controller and the Producers.

(iii) Since the wagon builders have already started production of new type of wagons, it is expected that the production will steadily increase.

Railway Hostels

*415. { **Shri Madhusudan Rao:**
 { **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**
 { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board is contemplating to open some Railway hostels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the places where those hostels will be opened in the first instance;

(c) the purpose of those hostels; and

(d) the total initial expenditure involved in the project?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to provide transit hostel accommodation on a limited scale both for gazetted and non-gazetted staff in places where there are large number of staff but it is difficult to secure private accommodation, such as Headquarters of Railways and their Divisional or District Headquarters.

(c) To provide transit accommodation for the staff when they go on transfer until they can obtain permanent accommodation.

(d) The cost of each hostel for accommodating 20 employees, will be about Rs. 36,000.

Yugoslav Collaboration in Food Products Industries

*416. **Shri V. Eacharan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up food products indust-

ries such as canning of fruits and fish with the technical collaboration of Yugoslavia;

(b) if so, whether it will be in the public sector or private sector; and

(c) the number of such units proposed to be started in the Third Plan?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). As the matter is being dealt with by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the question will be answered by the Minister of Commerce and Industry at a later date.

Sugarcane Prices

***417. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the circumstances under which the minimum price of cane supplied to the Warana Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, P.O. Kodli for the season 1959-60 has been fixed at Rs. 56 per ton; and

(b) whether such price has been fixed for any other sugar factory in that State or elsewhere in the country at variance with the price fixed for the season?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) The price payable by sugar factories in Maharashtra for sugarcane purchased by them during 1959-60 season, has been fixed for each factory separately as recommended by the State Government, on the basis of sugar recovery obtained in each.

(b) Yes, Sir, for Kolhapur Sugar Mills, Kolhapur.

Central Arid Zone Research Institute

***418. Shri Inder J. Malhotra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the research projects now undertaken at the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur are

only based on the Zonal problems of Rajasthan; and

(b) whether there are any plans to undertake research projects on all-India basis to tackle the problems of arid and semi-arid zones of India other than Rajasthan?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). The research projects to be undertaken at the Central Arid Zone Research Institute are being planned on an all India basis to tackle the problems of arid and semi-arid zones of India.

Irregular Allotment of Wagons

***419. Shri Kunhan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1383 on the 9th April, 1960 and state:

(a) whether responsibility has been fixed regarding improper allotment of wagons to a broker of Meerut City in Hastinapur and Mawana Town out-agencies;

(b) if so, the nature of action taken against the Railway employees concerned; and

(c) the nature of action taken against the out-agency contractors for the same?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (c). No railway staff has been found responsible.

Action against the out-agents, who alone have been found responsible, has been stayed under advice from the Special Police Establishment, Lucknow who are investigating this matter.

Shortage of Trained Officers to carry out Hydrographic Surveys

***420. Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply