

have been done of considerable mileage and there is no chance of those lines being taken up for construction for want of funds and also of material. As I remarked, there was no sense in ordering further surveys only for the satisfaction of certain areas when we fully know that there is no chance of construction work being taken up during the course of the Second Five Year Plan.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I know whether the Central Government is aware that the average mileage of railway lines in Kerala is not even one-third of the all-India average?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** Maybe; there is all possible anxiety on the part of the Railway Ministry also to construct as many new lines as we can. But we have to face the fact that we are short not only of funds, but also of materials and so long as the materials position does not improve there is not much sense in undertaking survey of new lines.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

Several hon. Members *rose*.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have called the next question. Hon. Members should rise well in time.

#### **Sambalpur Titilagarh Railway Line**

**Shri P. K. Deo:**

**Shri Supakar:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the position with regard to the proposed Railway Line from Sambalpur to Titilagarh in South Eastern Railway; and

(b) when the construction of the said line will be completed?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawas Khan):** (a) The Engineering Survey is still in progress and a decision regarding its construction is yet to be taken.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri P. K. Deo:** May I know whether the preliminary survey of the line and land acquisition has been completed?

**Shri Shahnawas Khan:** As I said the engineering survey is in progress.

**Shri Supakar:** When did the survey start?

**Shri Shahnawas Khan:** I thought I made myself quite clear that the survey is in progress.

**Shri Supakar:** When did it start?

**Shri Shahnawas Khan:** After the surveys have been completed, then the decision will be taken.

**Mr. Speaker:** When did the survey start. The hon. Minister is in possession of the information or not.

**Shri Shahnawas Khan:** It started in 1955.

**Shri Supakar:** How long will it take to complete the survey?

**Shri Shahnawas Khan:** It depends on various factors. It is very difficult to give the date. When the work is being carried out on the field, it is not possible to give the dates. But I can tell the hon. Member for his satisfaction that even if the survey report is received, there is no likelihood of its being taken up for construction during the Second Five Year Plan period.

#### **Cement Scarcity**

\*41. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the scarcity of cement in the flood affected areas;

(b) whether adequate arrangements have been made for the supply of the same before the next rainy season; and

(c) whether for the future the Government propose to take any special steps for sufficient supply of cement

to the areas which might be affected by floods?

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) In regard to the execution of flood protection works with which the Government of India are concerned, no report regarding shortage of cement has been received.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** May I know whether Government ever tried to know the quantity of cement required in the flood-affected areas last year?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Of course it always tries to ascertain the quantity required. So far as this work is concerned, we had enough cement and therefore there was no difficulty on that score.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know the quota of cement allotted for the flood-affected area in the State of Assam?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** The flood protection works are mainly earthen embankments undertaken or raising of villages and certain other measures. The cement required is only for small culverts or *nullahs* for which no shortage is felt. But if we take on the whole the irrigation and power projects, then we do experience some shortage.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwari:** The question relates to the scarcity of cement in flood-affected areas not only for government works but for public works also. May I know whether any direction has been given or any quota fixed for giving cement to flood-affected people, or it is given from the general stock?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** So far as the cement position is concerned we have less cement than we required. That is true. Against our total production of nearly 7 million tons our requirements are somewhere double, that is 14 million. Therefore there is bound

to be some kind of scarcity for some time. But in relation to this question which relates to the flood areas, there is no difficulty so far as works under the charge of the Government of India are concerned. So far as the States are concerned there are no reports to us that they have experienced any difficulty on that score.

#### Sugar Export

\*42. { **Pandit D. N. Tiwari:**  
**Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**

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

(a) whether there has been great increase in the consumption of sugar in the country; and

(b) the quantity of sugar exported in 1956-57?

**The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) Yes Sir. The consumption increased from about 16.6 lakh tons in 1952-53 to 19.4 lakh tons in 1955-56. During the current season it may exceed 20 lakh tons.

(b) Upto the end of March 31, 1957, 59 contracts for the export of about 79,000 tons had been made of which, 22,000 tons had been actually exported.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwari:** May I know the total manufacture of sugar this year?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** It will be about 20,00,000 tons.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwari:** If there is no surplus, then what is the need to export it?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** In the first place, the assumption that there is no surplus is wrong. In the second place, we want foreign exchange and, therefore, we are exporting. It is a very good sign.