

and Ferozepore Divisions to Bombay were fixed. This arrangement has considerably helped to expedite the clearance. It has however, not yet been found feasible to appreciably assist the movement of such traffic on the Bikaner Metre Gauge Division mainly due to the recent heavy movement of gypsum for Sindri, but steps are being taken to improve the movement of export cotton traffic.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** When was the representation received by Government and when exactly is the clearance expected?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not know the time, but representations were received some time back.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know, Sir, if the contracts for other shipments had to be cancelled for these three months, February, March, April, and what was the loss incurred by the Government by way of loss of foreign exchange?

**Shri Alagesan:** There is no question of loss, Sir. The statement gives the number of wagons that have been moved in this period of three months and the outstanding now is about 60,000 bales.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** By which time is the clearance expected?

**Shri Alagesan:** Even now we have started allotting more wagons for this traffic.

#### MYSTERIOUS DISEASE IN POONA AND AHMEDNAGAR

\*1352, **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a mysterious disease whose symptoms are an intense thirst, loss of appetite and gradual weakness, has been raging in some parts of Poona and Ahmednagar during the last one and a half year;

(b) whether leading medical men and members of a visiting team of Medical Scientists sponsored by the World Health Organisation and the Unitarian Service of America have been investigating the cause of the said disease and if so, with what result; and

(c) how many persons have been reported to have suffered from and died of it?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) A disease whose

main symptoms are frequent micturition and inordinate thirst has occurred in parts of Ahmednagar and Poona Districts in Bombay State since October, 1951. These cases first came to the notice of the State Government in February, 1952.

(b) Field investigations were carried out and a mobile hospital with accommodation for 50 beds has since been established by the State Government. Investigations regarding the nature of the disease and the efficacy of different modes of treatment are in progress. Some of the members of the visiting team of Medical Scientists of the Public Health Group (Dr. Karl Evang, Dr. J. Gordon and Dr. E. Grzegorzewski) were taken to the mobile hospital and an affected village. They have offered no definite opinion on the nature of the disease but took note of the various investigations which have been made by the State Government.

(c) Up to the end of March, 1953, about 960 persons have suffered from the disease and 28 of them have died. These deaths cannot, however, be directly attributed to the disease.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** May I know whether the disease is contagious and, if so, what preventive measures have the Government taken to prevent the disease from going beyond limits?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid the question is premature. The doctors have not been able to give an opinion.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether the disease was found in an epidemic or an endemic stage?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** The disease was in an epidemic form and it has now considerably been put down.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Was the disease discussed at a symposium held recently by the physicians of India and what were the recommendations made by the symposium?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** The disease was not discussed at any symposium. The State Government is making investigations. It appears that this was due to infection.

#### PRICE OF SUGAR-CANE IN MADRAS

\*1356, **Shri Eswara Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Madras Government are or were in correspondence with the Central Government on the issue of raising the price of sugar-cane which was fixed for the year 1952-53?

(b) If so, what are the proposals of the Government of Madras and what action the Government of India have taken thereon?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) and (b). The Madras Government were requested to consider how far the unearned profit on account of 'Freight advantage' enjoyed by the sugar factories in the Madras State could be shared by them with the cane growers. The Madras Government in consultation with their Sugar Advisory Committee have evolved a formula whereby payment of additional cane price over the minimum cane price fixed by the Government of India will be made by mills on a voluntary basis as a prescribed proportion of the price of sugar on a graduated scale. The Central Government has approved this arrangement which will have effect from the beginning of the season 1952-53.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know in what way this formula differs from the formula in force in U.P. and Bihar in regard to cane and sugar prices?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** This has no connection with U.P.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** In what respect does it differ?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** There is no formula for U.P.; there is a fixed price in U.P.

#### WRAPPER TOBACCO RESEARCH STATION, DINHATE

\*1357. **Shri Barman:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how far the installation work of the Wrapper Tobacco Research Station at Dinhat (West Bengal) has advanced?

(b) What is the total amount involved in the installation capital and recurring?

(c) Has any experimental field work on wrapper tobacco commenced in that station?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) 43.64 acres of land at Dinhat for the establishment of the Research Station were made available by the West Bengal Government on 21st February, 1953. Arrangements to have the land fenced and cultivated with wrapper tobacco are under way. A small staff (one Agricultural Assistant and one curer) has been appointed.

(b) The total expenditure is estimated to be:

Capital—Rs. 3,01,800

Recurring—Rs. 73,510.

(c) Not yet.

**Shri Barman:** What are the reasons for this inordinate delay when we had lost the research station in Pakistan in 1947?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Most of the time was taken up in acquiring the site.

**Shri Barman:** What is the value of the wrapper tobacco imported into this country, and from which countries is it imported?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I am afraid this must be referred to the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

**Shri Barman:** Is there any part of the country where wrapper tobacco is grown now?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have not got the necessary information.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether this wrapper tobacco is imported into this country?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** As I said, I have not got the information.

#### INVOLUNTARY UNEMPLOYMENT

\*1358. **Shri H. N. Shastri:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether on the 24th June, 1944, a letter No. NL-1891 was sent on behalf of the Government of India, Ministry of Labour, to all the State Governments on the subject of compensation to industrial workers for involuntary unemployment?

(b) If so, is the policy underlying the said letter still applicable?

(c) If so, have the industries implemented the proposals embodied in the said letter?

(d) If not, what steps do Government propose to take to ensure the implementation of the said proposals?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) A scheme for payment of compensation for involuntary unemployment due to shortage of coal, raw materials or changes in the line of production was circulated by the Government of India, Department of Labour with their letter No. L-1891, dated the 12th June, 1944, for adoption by State Governments and employers.