

CENTRAL SUGAR-CANE RESEARCH STATION
AT BHADRAK

*831. **Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether there is any special fund for the establishment of the Central Sugar-cane Research Station at Bhadrak near Lucknow?

(b) What stage has the establishment of this station reached?

(c) When is it expected to start regular work?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Construction of a portion of the building for the Central Sugarcane Research Station, at Bhadrak, has been entrusted to the Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department who have already taken it up in hand.

(c) For the present the Central Sugarcane Research Station will consist of four Sections only, viz., Sugarcane Agronomy, Mycology, Entomology, and Agricultural Engineering. Of these, a nucleus staff in the Entomological and Agricultural Engineering Sections has already been appointed and the work started. The other two Sections are expected to start work next year.

RE-IMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL CHARGES

*832. **Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state the approximate amount of money the Central Government spend yearly in the form of reimbursement to Government employees in the matter of medical attendance, etc.?

(b) What is the percentage of employees who derive benefit from this scheme yearly?

(c) What is the amount Government spent on this account in the year 1952?

(d) Is this facility given also to those Government servants who resort to Homœopathic and Ayurvedic treatment?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) to (c). The information required is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as it is ready.

(d) No.

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR IN INDIA

*833. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of sugar produced in the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53

in South India and the amount exported to North India;

(b) whether sugar produced in South India is sufficient for that area; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to step up production?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The quantity of sugar produced in South India in 1950-51 and 1951-52 was 2.59 lakh tons and 3.47 lakh tons respectively. During the current season 1.87 lakh tons has been produced upto end of February, 1953. Normally no sugar is exported from mills in South India to North India and no such exports are reported to have taken place either in 1950-51 or 1952-53. A small quantity of about 800 tons was reported to have been exported by mills in Madras and Bombay States to the neighbouring States of West Bengal and Saurashtra.

(b) No.

(c) The existing production capacity for sugar in the country is quite adequate to meet its full requirements and the present policy of the Government is not to allow further expansion of the industry except in cases where the existing installed capacity of any individual factory is uneconomic. Unsuitably located and idle factories are also encouraged to shift to suitable sites in the State or outside. Expansion of some uneconomic factories and erection of a few new factories in Madras by shifting idle plants from the North has been provisionally agreed to. Erection of a few factories in a similar manner in Bombay is also under consideration. All this expansion is expected to increase the production of the Southern region by about 80,000 tons.

SCHEDULED CASTE EMPLOYEES IN RAILWAY
MINISTRY

*834. **Dr. Satyawadi:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the statement showing representation in, and direct recruitment to, Railway Services Class I, II, III, and IV of Scheduled Castes, during the years 1949, 1950 and 1951 issued by the **Ministry of Railways (Railway Board)** and state what steps have been taken to level up the percentage of the Scheduled Caste personnel employed in Classes I, II and III of the Railway Services according to the quota reserved?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The Railways follow the orders issued by

the Ministry of Home Affairs in respect of representation of Scheduled Castes and Tribes in services and the steps taken are set out in the Report for the year 1951-52 issued by that Ministry, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

**RETRENCHMENT OF TEA GARDEN WORKERS
IN ASSAM**

*835. **Shri Sarmah:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether any decisions were arrived at in the Conference between the employers and labour of Tea Industry in Assam and the Central and State Ministers for Labour held recently at Shillong; if so, what are those and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

(b) Did the Minister visit any tea garden during his last visit to Assam?

(c) How many tea garden labourers were thrown out of employment due to closure of Tea Estates till the end of February, 1953, how many of these have been provided with alternative employment?

(d) Is it a fact that labourers are still being recruited from outside the State for work in tea gardens in Assam by the Tea District Labour Association?

(e) If so, do Government propose to take steps to stop fresh recruitment?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) There was general agreement at the Conference on the principle of conversion of food concessions into cash payments. Though no agreement could be reached on the exact quantum of compensation to be paid in lieu of the concessions, the differences between industry and labour were considerably narrowed down as a result of the discussions.

(b) Yes, three gardens.

(c) According to information received upto 25-2-53, 50,024 workers were rendered unemployed due to closure of tea gardens in Assam, of whom 1,284 were provided with alternative employment upto that date. Seven gardens had also re-opened by that date.

(d) Yes, under the provisions of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, 1932.

(e) The matter is under consideration.

**RAILWAY COLLISION AVERTED NEAR
MATHURA**

568. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a

Railway Collision of Grand Trunk Express and a goods train was averted on the 2nd November, 1952 between Mathura and Agra?

(b) If so, what action was taken against those who were responsible for giving a wrong line clear?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) On 2nd November, 1952, the Down Grand Trunk Express was received at Runkuta station on the same line on which an Up Empty Petrol Tank Special was already standing, but it stopped short of the engine of the latter train by 115 yards.

(b) Suitable disciplinary action is being taken against the staff for their share of responsibility for the reception of the Express on a wrong line.

No wrong 'line clear' was, however, involved in this case, as stated in the question.

Minor Irrigation Works in Bombay

569. **Shri Dabhi:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government of Bombay have asked for any financial assistance from the Government of India for the execution of minor irrigation works during the year 1953?

(b) If so, what amount is sanctioned as a loan and what amount as a grant?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, Sir. A loan of Rs. 80 lakhs and a grant of Rs. 13.13 lakhs.

(b) The loan has not been agreed to in view of the fact that very recently the Government of India have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 127.62 lakhs for a special programme of minor irrigation works in the scarcity affected areas of the State. A grant of Rs. 6.36 lakhs has been agreed to so far.

AREAS OF STATUTORY RATIONING

570. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the areas in different States where statutory rationing still exists;

(b) the population of each of these areas;

(c) the names of the rationed food grains in each of these areas;