

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) From 16th April 1953, an additional train has been introduced between Pilibhit and Bīsalpur, which will be extended to and from Shahjahanpur when rolling stock can be made available.

DELHI MAIL MOTOR SERVICE

*1569. **Shri Punnoose:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Mail Motor Service has suffered a loss of nearly one lakh of rupees;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been held; and

(c) whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House the results of the enquiry?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir.

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

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether there is a proposal before the Government to hand over this service to contractors?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No, Sir.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know what is the cost of running the mail motor service per mile?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is Re. 0-9-9.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know on what basis the mail motor service is run—on profit or loss?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is to provide service to carry mails. That is all.

Shri Punnoose: May I know when this service was taken over from the contract system, and will the Minister be pleased to state the comparative cost when it was handled through the contractor and for the first year when it was handled by the Department?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It was taken over as early as 15th December 1947 when the service run by the contractor almost broke down. The comparative cost at that time and this time I can say, Sir, with confidence is much less, but what it cost the contractor must be known to the contractor.

Mr. Speaker: What he means is cost to the Government of carrying mails.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would require notice for that specific question, but I can say it is running quite cheaply as compared to other stations where we have got it, viz., Calcutta, Bombay, Nagpur and Amritsar. The cost per mile there is:

Calcutta	..	0-12-6
Bombay	..	0-12-1½
Nagpur	..	0-11-8
Amritsar	..	0-13-8

As compared to this, at Delhi we have got Re. 0-9-9.

Shri Punnoose: Is it a fact that the officer who was in charge of this service is now on compulsory leave?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order: I do not think I should allow this question.

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR

*1570. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the production of sugar this year has fallen? *

(b) What are the reasons for the same?

(c) What steps are Government taking to reach the target?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The production of sugar during the current season is estimated at about 13 lakh tons as against 14.97 lakh tons during 1951-52 season and 11.16 lakh tons in 1950-51. The 1951-52 season was however, an abnormal one when due to bumper crop and low prices of *gur* there was a considerable diversion of cane from *gur* to sugar manufacture. Excluding 1951-52 season, the production during the current season will be more than in any of the 8 preceding seasons.

(b) The reasons for fall in production are:—

- (1) decrease in area under cane crop;
- (2) diversion of cane in factory zones to *gur* production owing to relatively high prices of *gur*;
- (3) number of sugar factories working during the current season is 134 as against 141 in 1951-52; and
- (4) factories started crushing late by about three weeks.

(c) Five Year Sugarcane Development Schemes are being extended to

all important sugar producing States for a further period of three years with the object of increasing yield of cane per acre and its sucrose content.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know whether this fall in production is a general feature prevailing in all centres of sugar production, or localised at certain places?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is more marked in U.P.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether this fall in production is due to the lowering of the prices of sugarcane to an uneconomic level?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not think so, Sir, because when the prices were lowered, the sugarcane crop was already cultivated and standing in the fields.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: Is it a fact that the fall in the sugarcane production is due to the deterioration of the cane on account of sugarcane pest?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There has not been such a good crop in many places, but I do not think it is due to any pest. It was more due to less and timely rain.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Has any increase been marked in the production of gur this year as compared to last year?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. There is a considerable increase in gur production because of higher prices of gur.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether there has been any increase in the yield per maund of sugarcane?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the figures here, Sir. I would like to have notice.

Shri Nanadas rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is putting questions on every question. I do not think he is right in doing that.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that the percentage of recovery has gone up from 9 points something to 10.15 or thereabouts?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the figures here. I could not say. Probably my hon. friend is right.

Sardar A. S. Salgal: I would request you, Sir, to take up question No. 1571. Mr. Jangde is ill and is not able to be present.

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 1571—Mr. Jangde. Well, we will consider it at the end. Next question.

PURCHASE OF RAILWAY STORES

*1573. **Shri Bansal:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether adequate consideration is being given for finding supplies in the country at the time of purchasing stores for his Ministry from abroad?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Yes, provided that the stores can be delivered in the period during which they are actually wanted and the quality is good enough for the purpose for which they are required.

Shri Bansal: Is it a fact that in America there is an Act under which every government department has to purchase American goods even if the cost price is 25 per cent. higher than that of the imported goods?

Shri Alagesan: I take that information from the hon. Member.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROAD

*1574. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the agency at their disposal for the maintenance and construction of roads and bridges is C.P.W.D. or any other organisation?

(b) Is there any dual control of C.P.W.D. by Transport and Works, Housing and Supply Ministries?

(c) Which of the two Ministries controls the C.P.W.D.?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Road works under the control of the Ministry of Transport are generally executed through the agency of the State Public Works Departments and the Central Public Works Department. A few works have been entrusted to other agencies such as the Central Water and Power Commission and the Railways. The work entrusted to the Central Public Works Department does not amount to a large percentage of the total.

(b) No.

(c) The Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: How is the arrangement of the staff made between these two Ministries?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, the Public Works Department executes this work. The staff of the Public Works Department—either State or Central—executes the work.