

## SENIORITY OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

\*1010. **Shri Kelappan:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that due to the merger of several Railways in the formation of the Western Railway, employees of smaller units like the Rajasthan and Saurashtra Railway have lost their seniority of service?

(b) Is it not a fact that assurances were given at the time of the merger that the seniority of no railway employee would be allowed to suffer by the merger?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) No.

(b) The assurance given was that every effort would be made to ensure that the staff of the ex-States Railways do not suffer in any way and that their existing and future position in the new order of things would be secure.

## TOBACCO RE-DRYING MACHINE AT GUNTUR

\*1012. **Shri S. V. L. Narasimham:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state when, at what cost and under what circumstances a tobacco re-drying machine for installation at Guntur in Madras State was purchased by the Central Tobacco Marketing Committee?

(b) When and at what cost was the site acquired for installation?

(c) Why the machine has not so far been installed?

(d) Is it a fact that the Guntur Tobacco Marketing Committee requested that the machine may be given to them for operating?

(e) How is the machine sought to be disposed of?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) The Tobacco Re-drying Plant was purchased by the Indian Central Tobacco Committee, Madras, in December, 1949, at a cost of Rs. 2,82,000/-. It was purchased because adequate re-drying facilities were not available to the grower exporters and small exporters at that time and the charges levied by private re-drying plant owners were considered to be exorbitant.

(b) The site was acquired in May, 1952, at a cost of Rs. 82,472/-.

(c) Firstly, the question of location of the plant and secondly the acquisition of land for erecting the plant took a considerable time. In the meantime the capacity for redrying tobacco

at the privately owned re-drying plants in the area had increased and became adequate for the available quantities of tobacco to be re-dried. Consequently it was decided to dispose of the plant.

(d) Yes.

(e) The plant is proposed to be handed over to the Guntur Tobacco Market Committee if suitable terms are offered by them; failing which it will be disposed of through the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals.

## YIELD OF SUGAR-CANE IN U.P.

\*1015. **Shri H. S. Prasad:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the yield of sugar-cane per acre has been decreasing in Eastern districts of U.P. for the last ten years; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to increase the yield of sugar-cane per acre?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) No. The yields have been varying from year to year, depending upon the amount and distribution of rainfall, and the extent of infestation of the crop with pests and disease, etc. During the past five years for which separate data are available for Eastern U.P., in the first three years the average yield of sugar-cane per acre rose from 281 maunds in 1947-48 to 312 maunds in 1949-50, while during the next two years they ranged between 259 and 265 maunds.

(b) A Five Year Sugarcane Development Scheme has been in operation since 1948-49 in the important sugar producing States. This scheme provides for increased irrigation facilities, supply of improved varieties of seed, adequate supply of fertilisers, etc. Appreciable increase in yields has been achieved in the concentrated areas of development, and it has been decided to extend the scheme for another 3 years upto 1955-56.

## FOOD SCARCITY IN TINNEVELLY DISTRICT OF MADRAS

\*1022. **Shri A. V. Thomas:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that distress and scarcity conditions exist in Tinnevelly District of the Madras State;

(b) if so, what remedial measures have been taken by Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are reports of migration of families from Vypar, Puliankulam and other villages from that District; and

(d) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement made by Sri Kamraj Nadar, M.P. and President of Tamilnad Congress Committee to the effect that unless relief is given to these famine areas quickly, disaster will result and many will perish?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### KADUR-CHIKMAGALUR RAILWAY LINE

**726. Shri N. Rachiah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various representations have been made to the Government of India emphasising the necessity of constructing a new railway line between Kadur and Chikmagalur in Mysore State; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Yes.

(b) In view of the limited funds and resources available for meeting the transport requirements of the country taking into account the developments proposed in the 5-year plan, it is not possible to consider at present the provision of a new line from Kadur to Chikmagalur. The rail connection between a Port on the West Coast and Hassan is a more urgent need and the survey of the Mangalore-Hassan line is being undertaken in the first instance.

#### QUININE

**727. Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of quinine manufactured at each of the Government factories at Madras and West Bengal during the years 1949 to 1952;

(b) the cost of production per pound at each of these factories during the above period;

(c) the total quantity of quinine imported and from which countries it was imported during each of the above years;

(d) what is the import price of quinine per pound; and

(e) the total requirements of quinine in India during each of the above years?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) and (b). The information required in respect of the State Government factory in West Bengal is given below:

Year	Total quantity of quinine manu- factured (lbs.)	Cost of production per lb. (Rs.)
1949	65,890	25
1950	52,576	28
1951	57,421	43
1952	51,191	43

The information in respect of the Government factory in Madras is awaited from the Government of Madras and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) to (e). The required information is given below:—

Year	Total quantity of quinine im- ported (lbs.)	Price of im- ported quin- ine sulphate per lb. ne (as (Rs.) estimated Average from sales estimate by the Madras and West Bengal and imports)	Annual require- ments of quin- ine sulphate (as (Rs.) estimated Average from sales estimate by the Madras and West Bengal and imports)
1949	1,45,913	38.4	2,91,600
1950	1,236	32.9	1,24,200
1951	25,589	52.1	42,600
1952	62,241	36.6	76,800

The quinine was imported mainly from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Indonesia.

#### CATERING ARRANGEMENT IN GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS

**729. Shri Achuthan:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the terms and conditions for catering in the dining van attached to the Grand Trunk Express?

(b) Is it given on contractual basis?

(c) If so, were tenders invited for, and what are the terms of the accepted tender in 1952-53?