

could not be made in regard to their night-rest, dormitories etc., we decided to keep the scheme in abeyance. Pending decision on these questions, the list of temporary girl operators has swollen up.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF OFFICIAL TRAVEL ORGANISATIONS

*556. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether India was represented at the Eighth General International Conference and General Assembly of the Official Travel Organisations held at Lisbon in the month of October, 1953?

(b) If so, has the representative submitted any report?

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

(b) The report is awaited.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what was the agenda, particularly with reference to India, that was discussed at this meeting?

Shri Alagesan: It contained several items. I can give it to the hon. Member, if he wants it. Problems of general tourist interest were discussed at the conference.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the delegate who went as a representative of India, was given any particular brief by the Ministry?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, he was certainly briefed.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what that brief was like?

Mr. Speaker: Possibly, the hon. Minister may place it on the Table of the House or give it to him privately.

Shri Alagesan: I can share it with him privately.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Is it a fact that a branch of this Organisation is going

to be opened in Bombay, and if so, are Government going to give any aid towards the same?

Shri Alagesan: There is another branch consisting of the South East Asian countries, of which India was president, and Japan is president now. There is no proposal to open an additional office in Bombay.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri D. C. Sharma: One question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: It is too late now, I am going to the next question.

COVERED PLATFORMS ON NORTHERN RAILWAY

*557. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state the names of the stations on the Northern Railway where platforms are proposed to be covered during the year 1953-54?

(b) How many of these are on branch line and how many on main line?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) In all 56 stations on the Northern Railway have been included for this purpose in the 1953-54 Works Programme and a list of these is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III annexure No. 30.]

(b) 37 on main line and 19 on branch line.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know the policy of Government with regard to covering the platforms of these stations? How are the representations from the people of these areas being considered?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The Railway Zonal Users' Committee draw up the list. They have also appointed a small sub-committee called the Passenger Amenities Committee, which

in fact, draws up the list. On the basis of that list, the work is in progress.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know why there is such a large disproportion between the number of stations on the main line, and the number of stations on the branch lines, whose platforms are going to be covered?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Because there is greater traffic on the main lines.

SUGAR

*558. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the quantity of sugar that has been imported upto the 30th of September, 1953?

(b) How are these stocks being distributed?

(c) Will it be sold all over the country at the imported rate of Re. -/12/- per seer?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 31.]

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know whether Government intend to import more than 2 lakhs of tons of sugar this year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes. We intend to import 2,35,000 tons, out of which we have already purchased nearly half the quota.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know whether for 1954, consumption will be higher than production?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The consumption in the country is increasing, and so we expect the figure for consumption to be greater than those of last year and the year before last.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether the States are at liberty to distribute the stocks allotted to them, and whether the co-operative organisations

can get their stocks directly from the Central Government?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There are three ways of doing the distribution. As soon as we get the imported sugar at the ports first preference is given to the States who come forward to take the responsibility of distributing the sugar. The second preference is given to co-operative societies, and lastly, we give it to the merchants.

पंडित डी० एन० तिवारी : ट्रान्स्पोर्ट चार्ज को ले कर हिन्दुस्तान में यह कितने में पड़ती है और कितने में बेची जाती है ?

श्री एम० वी० कृष्णप्पा : हिन्दुस्तान में बारह लाख टन पैदा होती है ।

पंडित डी० एन० तिवारी : मैं ने पूछा था कि

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Shri Kelappan.

Shri Kelappan: May I know whether Government are considering the question of importing raw sugar, so that the refineries there may have some work?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That is a very important question. Refining is done in England and other places. But here, the merchants say that it is not profitable to import raw sugar and convert it into refined sugar.

U.N.I.C.E.F. AID

*559. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 44 asked on the 4th August, 1953 and state what has been the response of the UNICEF to the request for allocation of equipment and material worth Rs. 4,45,000 to the Government of India for the establishment of a Central Health Education Bureau?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): The matter is still under the consideration of the UNICEF.