

MAJOR PORTS

*595. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the name or names of major ports for whose development and improvement programmes have been finalised; and

(b) the estimated cost of developing those ports?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 41.]

SUGAR (PRODUCTION)

*596. **Shri Bhagwat Jha:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the estimated quantity of production of sugar in the coming season?

(b) What would be the approximate quantity of sugar needed for consumption in the year 1953-54?

(c) Is it a fact that consumption habit of people has gone up?

(d) If so, what steps do Government propose to fill up the gap?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) Between 12 and 13 lakh tons.

(b) Between 16 and 17 lakh tons.

(c) Yes.

(d) By imports until production is stepped up.

MICA MINES LABOUR WELFARE FUND

*597. **Shri Veeraswamy:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) what is the balance at present of the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund;

(b) what are the amenities provided to the labourers with the aid of that Fund;

(c) whether the unspent balances secure any interest and if so, what is

the amount of accumulated interest; and

(d) how the investment is made?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) About Rs. 1.16 crores on 31st March 1953.

(b) Medical, educational, recreational, housing, and drinking water facilities are being provided to the miners. Detailed information is contained in the annual reports of the activities of the Fund published in the *Gazette of India* each year, copies of which are supplied to the Parliament Secretariat for distribution to the members.

(c) No. The Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946, does not provide for investments being made. The question of amending the Act is under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

PERAMBUR COACH-BUILDING FACTORY

*598. **Shri Veeraswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state at what stage the construction of the coach-building factory at Perambur is at present?

(b) How is the recruitment of staff made and whether there is any reservation for Scheduled Castes?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Nearly 30 per cent. of the construction work of the Buildings has been completed.

(b) Direct recruitment for categories in Class III Service is made through the Railway Service Commission and for categories in Class IV Service recruitment is made by the local officers of the factory from amongst direct applicants and nominees of the Linked Employment Exchanges. In all such cases of direct recruitment the percentages of reservation fixed by Government in favour of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes apply.