

Shri Alagesan: Mileages have not increased.

Seth Govind Das: There are several hydro-electric schemes which are being completed and will come into existence very soon. Is there any scheme whereby, as soon as these hydro-electric schemes are completed, there will be more electric trains introduced on various lines?

Shri Alagesan: As far as the Calcutta electrification is concerned, as was said on the floor of the House the other day, we are negotiating with the D.V.C.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR HOWRAH

*1082. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an accident took place on the 1st January, 1954 which involved an empty rake and a coal-loaded goods train near Tikapara railway yard at Howrah;

(b) the cause of the accident;

(c) how many employees were severely injured and how many died; and

(d) how many up-trains were held up on account of this accident?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. At about 20-05 hours on 1st January, 1954, while No. 108 Down Coal Load was proceeding from Howrah Sorting Yard to the Down Goods Line, the Empty Rake of 314 Down Passenger coming from Howrah station collided with the Coal Load.

(b) The accident was caused by the Driver of 314 Down Empty Rake passing signals at danger.

(c) No one was killed. Five railway servants received minor and two other railways servants received grievous injuries.

(d) Five Up-trains on 1st January 1954 and 31 Up-trains on 2nd January 1954 were held up. Six Up

through trains were cancelled from Howrah to Santragachi on 1st January 1954.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Is it a fact that bad rail is one of the reasons for the accident?

Shri Alagesan: That is not what the enquiry discloses.

RELEASE OF SUGAR STOCKS

*1083. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all restrictions on the release of sugar stocks of factories have been recently removed; and

(b) if so, whether this measure has resulted or is likely to result in any relief to the consumer?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know if the price of sugar reigning in the sugar market in Delhi even today is between Rs. 33-2-0 and 34-6-0 per maund?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is possible that such prices may be obtaining in some places because there is no price control excepting on the sugar that is imported and which is given to certain merchants for being sold at fixed prices. The rest of the sugar is, however, free from price control.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: What other steps is Government taking to give relief to the consumer in respect of the price of sugar?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is the reason why I had to reply to the first part of the question in the negative. The Government have reserved the right of acquiring one-fourth of the production of sugar for being sold at any specific price in the market. Whenever we consider that the prices have gone up abnormally high, we release the procured sugar.

Shri Sankarapandian: May I know whether it is a fact that the South Indian sugar mills have been recently asked by the Government to dispose of their stock of released sugar by the 6th of May, otherwise their release would be cancelled?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not seen any communication from the South Indian mills.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : इम्पोर्टेड शुगर सरकार किस रेट से बेचती है ?

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question.

POLIO

*1084. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Polio cases in the various States during the year 1951, 1952 and 1953;

(b) the total number of deaths from this disease during these periods;

(c) whether the recommendations of the W.H.O. polio team have been accepted and given effect to; and

(d) if so, the results achieved?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) and (d). In view of the recommendations of the W.H.O. Polio Team, a Physiotherapy Training Centre and School at the K.E.M. Hospital, Bombay, has been established.

Shri S. N. Das: As this disease is a new disease, may I know whether the Government's information is that it is increasing and spreading or whether it has been checked?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: That is why this institute at Bombay has been established to do all necessary things to tackle the spread of the disease.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the contribution in terms of men and money by W.H.O. for this purpose?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: W.H.O. gave us 5,000 U.S. dollars towards equipment and also two personnel.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any of the doctors in India have been able to find out the cause of this disease? If not, will the Government send some doctors to other countries where researches in this respect are being carried out?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I have no information with regard to the first part of the question, but I know that research is being done on this disease.

SHORT LANDINGS OF FOOD-GRAINS

*1086. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about Rs. 225 lakhs were lost by Government on account of short-landings in food-grains during the years 1949-50 and 1950-51;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor;

(c) the person responsible for this loss; and

(d) whether the loss is recoverable from the ship-owners?

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

(b) and (c). These losses are due to natural phenomenon on account of evaporation during voyage and different methods of weighment at the ports of loading and unloading e.g. while at the port of loading the weighment is done by mechanical equipment, the weighment at the port of discharge is done by beam scales or weighbridges.

(d) Yes to the extent the claim is tenable against them under the provisions of the Charter Parties and the