

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

(b) The estimated additional cost is Rs. 1.55 crores.

(c). Yes.

(d) It has been decided to postpone electrification for the present.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether it is a fact that the percentage of savings under electrification would be about seven per cent. if DC equipment is used and about ten per cent. if AC is used? May I also know whether the total savings would be in the neighbourhood of about Rs. 12 lakhs a year?

Shri Alagesan: I may not be able to go into the technical questions but I can broadly inform the House that the capital cost of electrification is always greater but the running cost is less.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire what would be the value of coal per ton at the spot and whether it would not be costlier at the spot in Travancore-Cocin than in any other part of the country?

Shri Alagesan: I will not be able to give the actual cost of coal, but it is true that we have to transport coal from Bengal and Bihar, and Travancore-Cochin being the farthest corner, it will cost there more than elsewhere.

Shri Achuthan: In view of the fact that electricity will be more readily available in this part of the country in future and in view of answer to part (a) of the question, is it not the policy of the Government to electrify this rail link even though we have to spend more initially?

Mr. Speaker: This is carrying on an argument.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether this Ernakulam-Quilon rail link will be an electrified railway or a coal-run railway?

Shri Alagesan: That was my very answer.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS TRAINED ABROAD

***203. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in several cases persons sent abroad for special training in medicine have been employed on works other than those in which they received special training; and

(b) if so, the number of such cases?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) and (b). The information required is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will the Government also enquire from the States and lay the information on the Table of the House—the information relating not only to the Central Government, i.e., about people sent by them but also people sent by the States and also people getting scholarships from foreign countries?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: As far as the Central Government is concerned, there is no need for me to make an enquiry; I can tell the hon. Member that no scholar has ever gone abroad under any Central Government scheme and has come back and been employed in any other category than the one for which he was sent abroad. As far as the States are concerned, I have stated that I am making enquiries and when I have the information I will lay it on the Table of the House.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: There are many students and persons who are sent abroad on scholarships granted by foreign countries I want information about them also. Will this also be covered?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes. Since 1948, no students have been sent abroad for post-graduate study at Government expense. All the students that

have gone abroad, have gone on scholarships given by either the Rockefeller Foundation or W.H.O. or UNICEF and they are guaranteed employment by the States when they come back.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Is it not a fact that students who have been abroad and have taken medical training and who have done their FRCS, are offered employment by the Government on salaries of Rs. 300 and Rs. 350 in the Irwin Hospital?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: They are, in my opinion, offered salaries which are not compatible with their status but that is the system that exists because doctors are expected to have private practice and make up the income in that way.

Shri Feroze Gandhi rose—

Mr. Speaker: I think there is no use carrying on the argument further.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: 205.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Sir, may I suggest that Question No. 217 may also be taken along with this Question? The subject matter is the same.

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Sir, I have no objection.

Mr. Speaker: Very well.

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN BIHAR STATE

*205. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar production in the Bihar State has declined by fifty per cent. in the year 1953-54 as compared to the years 1951-52 and 1952-53; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The production of sugar in the Bihar State during the years 1953-54, 1952-53 and 1951-52 was

1.46 lakh tons, 2.73 lakh tons and 2.24 lakh tons respectively. The production during 1953-54 was less by 46.5 per cent. as compared to that during 1952-53, and by 35 per cent. as compared to that of 1951-52.

(b) The decrease in the production of sugar during 1953-54 season as compared to that during 1952-53 or 1951-52 was due to the decline in the availability of sugarcane caused by a fall both in the area and production of sugarcane. The fall in acreage was due mainly to the low prices of *gur* and to adverse weather conditions at the sowing time. The crop was also considerably damaged by floods.

SUGAR-CANE PRODUCTION

*217. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the average sugar-cane production per acre in the Punjab, U.P., Bihar and in peninsular India during 1952 and 1953;

(b) the average percentage of recovery of sugar from sugar-cane in these States; and

(c) the steps that are proposed to be undertaken to step up production and increase the recovery?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix I, annexure No. 47.]

(c) The measures adopted to increase the per acre yields and sugar content of cane are:—

- (i) provision of irrigation facilities,
- (ii) establishment of seed nurseries and distribution of disease-free and improved varieties of seeds,
- (iii) distribution of manures and fertilisers and intensive application of fertilisers to the