

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the question has been answered more than once before.

**DECENTRALIZATION OF POSTAL LIFE  
INSURANCE OFFICE**

\*1376. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Office of the Director, Postal Life Insurance, Calcutta, is proposed to be decentralised soon; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes. The proposal is under consideration.

(b) To ensure better supervision, and expeditious settlement of claims and to meet the increased volume of business.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** May I know what steps are in contemplation to assure the present employees who fear transfer and loss of their present special allowance and serious difficulties regarding housing accommodation, education of children and so on and so forth?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Those matters are under consideration and the interests of the employees will be taken due note of.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** May I know if it is not a fact that expenses over the establishment will mount up on account of having to have duplicate the accounting, maintenance of policy and review registers and other papers separately both at the Centre and at the branches?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** That is an inference with which the Government do not agree, because they have got before them relevant facts and figures which show that decentralisation will not result in increased expenditure but to the contrary in reduction thereof.

**MANDYA SUGAR FACTORY**

\*1377. **Shri Keshavaiengar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of tons of sugar are lying in stock in the Mysore Sugar Factory, Mandya, due to their not being released in spite of several requests; and

(b) whether Government are aware that the factory will come to a close if no order for release of sugar is issued immediately?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) and (b). Release of sugar produced by a factory in a season are spread over the whole year. The Mandya factory started crushing on 4th August, 1954, and had produced 5,856 tons of sugar by 13th September, 1954. Out of this a quantity of 2,901 tons sugar has already been released. Further releases would be made from time to time.

**Shri Keshavaiengar:** When was this release ordered?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** As I stated, the factory started crushing on the 4th August, 1954, and upto the 13th September, 1954 they produced 5,856 tons. Of this quantity, 806 tons were released on 4th September, 1954 and 631 tons on 13th September, 1954. A further quantity of 1,464 tons has also been released against tenders for controlled distribution.

**TICKETLESS TRAVEL**

\*1378. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any decrease in ticketless travelling on the Northern Railways in 1953-54 as compared to 1952-53; and

(b) whether Government propose to take any special steps this year for checking ticketless travelling?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) It is not

possible to say whether there has been any decrease in ticketless travelling on the Northern Railway during 1953-54 as compared to 1952-53 as the number of undetected ticketless travellers is not susceptible of computation. The number detected during 1953-54 has, however, been more than that for 1952-53.

(b) The present campaign against ticketless travelling will continue to be pursued vigorously.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know if this ticketless travelling is more frequent on branch lines than on main lines?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** We have a suspicion to that effect.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know if the Government is thinking of increasing the checking staff for reducing the number of ticketless travellers?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** This matter is being considered.

**Shri D. C. Sharma** rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** This question is often coming up. Let us go to the next question.

#### CASE AGAINST RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

\*1380. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 242 on the 23rd March, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the preliminary enquiries and investigation in connection with the racket of illegal re-sale of used Railway tickets have been completed; and

(b) if so, what is the result thereof?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). The preliminary enquiries in connection with this case have been completed very recently and the report has been received by the Railway Administration. Necessary action is now in progress.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I have some idea of the report and who are involved in this?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** Fifteen persons are implicated in this thing, but we have not got the details of the report. It is considered by the Railway Administration concerned, that is, the Central Railway.

**Shri Dabhi:** Am I to understand that no action will be taken on these persons?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** Departmental action is suggested and the Railway will take departmental action on them.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I have some idea of the *modus operandi*?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** We have not yet received the report.

#### FRUIT PRESERVATION INDUSTRY

\*1381. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what assistance, financial or otherwise, has so far been given or is proposed to be given to the Fruit Preservation Industry and for its development?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** No direct financial assistance by way of subsidy or loan has been given to the fruit preservation industry. The Central Government, however, had assisted in the procurement of raw materials like tins, sugar etc. to units of the industry when these commodities were scarce and under control. This industry has also been given protection since 1948 through restrictions placed on imports of fruit products and imposition of high tariff duties. Governments' decision to purchase their requirements (e.g. Defence Services' demands) from indigenous sources only also assist the industry.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I know how far the protection given to this industry has been able to ensure self-sufficiency in this country in respect of civil consumption and military consumption?