

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

1959

1960

LOK SABHA

Thursday, 7th April, 1955

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RAILWAY ENGINES

*2013. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Metre Gauge as well as Narrow Gauge engines on the Western Railway are either overaged or require constant repairs;

(b) if so, what is the number of each of these categories of engines; and

(c) what steps are being taken to replace them?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Shahnawaz Khan**): (a) Yes, Sir. Overage Metre Gauge and Narrow Gauge engines are in use on the Western Railway but their repair position is normal.

(b) Metre Gauge 130 }
Narrow Gauge 24 } on 31-12-54.

(c) The rehabilitation programmes of all railways including the Western Railway have been accelerated as much as possible.

Shri Dabhi: May I know when the Government expect these engine troubles to cease at least to a considerable extent?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As long as the engines continue to run, there will always be trouble in them.

Shri Dabhi: May I know if the hon. Parliamentary Secretary will be pleased to state the number of times during the last three months when there was late running of trains due to engine troubles on these lines?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I would like to have notice.

Shri Kelappan: May I know how long it will take to replace them?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The average age of a locomotive is 40 years. That is not essentially the criterion for condemning it. We try to keep our engines running as long as possible. We try to replace them as soon as possible.

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Alagesan**): We are rapidly trying to overtake the arrears in replacements.

SUGAR FACTORIES

*2015. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the replies given to supplementary questions arising out of the reply given to starred question No. 185 on the 19th November, 1954 and state:

(a) the number and the names of the sugar factories established and proposed to be established on a co-operative basis for which permission has already been issued; and

(b) whether any such factory has begun to function?

The Minister of Agriculture (**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh**): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 43].