

first enquiry report and the final report, there is a possibility of the cases being misdirected or misrepresented in the Court?

Mr. Speaker: I think it would be risky to put questions on the merits of a case which is *sub judice* now.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that the accused persons concerned in these cases are really culprits, that whenever they are in custody no such incidents happen and when they come out such incidents happen?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan rose—

Mr. Speaker: I do not think he should answer this question.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: What is the punishment awarded in such cases?

Mr. Speaker: That is too general. The question should be specific.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether the pilferage between Howrah and Khargpur is on the increase or decrease, taking into account the last three years?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I do not have the figures for the last three years, but I have figures for 1953-54. There is a decrease in 1954 compared to 1953. In 1953 there were 147 cases of thefts and pilferage, in 1954 there were only 100 cases.

रंलों पर भोजन व्यवस्था

*११२६. श्री एम० एन० सिंह : क्या रंलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रंलवे स्टेशनों पर और रंलों में फेरीवालों द्वारा बेची जाने वाली अथवा उपाहार गृहों में परोसी जाने वाली खाद्य वस्तुओं के मूल्य कौन प्राधिकारी निश्चित करता है ,

(ख) मूल्यों में परिवर्तनों के सम्बन्ध में क्या निर्णय किये जाते हैं और उसका आधार क्या होता है ; और

(ग) ये भाव बाजार भावों से अधिक क्यों होते हैं ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The individual Railway Administrations fix the prices of the eatables sold within Railway premises and in trains.

(b) and (c). Periodical revision of the rates is undertaken whenever this is warranted due to variations in the prices for food stuffs.

The prices are fixed having regard to those prevailing in the outside market.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the Government is aware that large-scale sub-letting is practised and consequently prices of food-stuffs on our platforms go high, and also the quality of the food deteriorates?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have any information in my possession regarding that, but I can say that recently we standardised the prices in the refreshment rooms, and they are as follows:

Southern Railway	10 annas
Ex-B. N. Railway	14 annas.
Other Railways	14 annas.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think he wants details. His question is that because of the practice of sub-letting, the prices go high, whatever they may be, and the quality deteriorates. Is that a fact?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir. Certainly, sub-letting means deterioration in quality and also their putting up the prices. The prices are fixed, but though there may be deterioration in the quality. The difficulty with sub-letting is that it is very difficult to prove it, and when such cases are found out, the contractor is dealt with severely.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether any complaint has been received by the Government from Sone-

pur station on the North-Eastern Railway and Moghalsarai also about sub-letting?

Shri Alagesan: Not to my knowledge.

FERTILIZERS

*1128. **Shri Jethalal Joshi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of fertilizers produced in India during 1954; and

(b) by how much it fell short of the demand?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Among the various kinds of fertilisers, both nitrogenous and phosphatic, only sulphate of ammonia and superphosphate are produced in India. The production of sulphate of ammonia and superphosphate in 1954 was 3,40,222 tons and 1,05,056 tons, respectively.

(b) In the case of sulphate of ammonia, the deficit during 1954 was of the order of 74 lakh tons. The local production of superphosphate is sufficient to meet the demand.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: May I know if the Government can say just how much appreciable increase there has been in the demand for fertilisers from agriculturists during the last two years?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am very happy to say that there has been a very appreciable increase in the demand, and if my hon. friend would like the figures, I can tell him that whereas in 1952 our consumption of Ammonium Sulphate was 2,76,258 tons, in 1953 it was 4,26,534 tons and in 1954 it is likely to be above 5.5 lakh tons.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: May I know if there is a proposal to start another factory for nitrogenous fertiliser in view of the increased demand for these fertilisers, and if so, where?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir, but that would be a proper question to

address to the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

Shri R. S. Diwan: May I know whether the shortage which the hon. Member referred to is in comparison with the total demand of agriculturists in India, or the demands which have been actually made by the States?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There was actual shortage and in some places even blackmarket was resorted to as a result of the shortage due to demand from the cultivators.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

*1129. **Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Accident Enquiry Committee observed in their report that the existing flood-lighting arrangements for night examination of trains, and working facilities in regard to tools and plants and supply of spare-parts are not adequate for proper examination and maintenance of the rolling stock; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement in this respect is attached. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 47].

श्री गणपति राम: स्टार्टमेंट को देखने से मालूम होता है कि अब भी जो स्पेअर पार्ट्स ट्रेन एग्जामिनर्स को दिये जाते हैं वह अपर्याप्त होते हैं। क्या मैं पूछ सकता हूँ कि रेलवे की सुरक्षा के लिये और उस की एफिशिएन्सी के लिये क्या रेलवे मंत्रालय यह जरूरी नहीं समझता है कि यह स्पेअर पार्ट्स जल्दी से जल्दी उन को दिये जायें ताकि अच्छी तरह से काम हो सके ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : जी हां, यह चीज देखी गई थी कि ट्रेन एग्जामिनर्स के पास जो