

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) : A few cases of engine trouble were experienced which are normal in early stages in the introduction of a new type of aircraft. These have been attended to with the assistance of Manufacturers.

Airlifting of Second Class Mail

*777. **Shri S. K. Razmi :** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding the airlifting of second class mail;

(b) if so, what; and

(c) which of the stations will be connected?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) :
(a) Yes. In view of the considerable cost involved, the scheme for airlifting of second class mail is not likely to be implemented in the near future.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Sugar cane Prices

*778. { **Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha :**
Babu Ramnarayan Singh :
Shri Asthana :

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have not accepted the formulae linking price of cane with the price of sugar evolved by the Central Government and the reasons therefor for the season 1955-56; and

(b) the names of States which have fixed higher cane price than what has been fixed by the Central Government for 1955-56 and the reasons for doing so?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) Pending the report of the Expert Committee which is expected soon, no decision has yet been taken on the formula linking the price of cane with that of sugar to be adopted for the season 1955-56.

(b) It is only in the case of the State of Bombay that higher minimum cane price at Rs. 44/- per ton as against the All India price of Rs. 39/2/- per ton has been fixed on the recommendation of the State Government. The reason is that most of the factories in that State have extensive sugarcane farms and it was apprehended that they may not buy cane from cultivators if the price they have to pay for such cane is linked with price of sugar and not declared before-hand. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 7].

Hirakud Dam

*781. **Shri Sarangadhar Das :** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special 'Hirakud Dam Project Allowance' is being granted to the P. & T. employees in the entire area where the transmission line goes;

(b) if so, the year and the date when this special allowance was granted;

(c) whether it is a fact that this allowance is being given to the employees in the Angul and Chowdwar Post Offices; and

(d) the reason why it has not been granted to the employees in the Dhenkanal Post Office which is situated along the transmission line between Angul and Chowdwar?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) :
(a) Yes, except in Dhenkanal.

(b) 1-4-54.

(c) Yes.

(d) The proposal to sanction the allowance to P. & T. staff in Dhenkanal also is under consideration.

Vacuum Braking in Metre Gauge Trains

*782. **Shri U. M. Trivedi :** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Metre gauge trains do not run with complete vacuum brakings;

(b) if so, why; and

(c) since when has this restriction been applied?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) : (a) and (b). All passenger trains on the Metre Gauge are fitted with vacuum brakes. Passenger trains on some of the sections of the North Eastern Railway have the vacuum brake blanked off necessitated due to frequent unauthorised pulling of chain

Goods and mixed trains, however, do not always run with vacuum brakes as all the old Metre Gauge wagons are not yet fitted with vacuum brake equipment.

(c) Blanking of vacuum Brake on Passenger trains on the North Eastern Railway from 16th May 1955.