

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : How does the price level prevailing in the month of September last compare with the price level prevailing during the same period in the previous year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa : The indices show that in September, 1956 it was 534 points; in November, 1956, it was 564 points.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : May I know the factors that were conducive to the rise in prices in the months of August and September?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa : The main factor is seasonal variation. Generally, as in the case of rice for instance, the upward trend in prices starts in September and continues up to November. Generally by December the prices start coming down because of the harvest. In addition to this main factor there are various other national and international factors.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Contributory Health Service Scheme

*872. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi** : Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government propose to start the Contributory Health Service Scheme for Central Government employees in other cities also?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur) : No decision has been taken so far on the question of extending the scheme to those important cities where there is a concentration of Central Government employees.

Mustard Oil and Seeds

*873. **Shri S. C. Samanta** : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1580 on the 30th August, 1956, and state:

(a) how many schemes for multiplication of improved strains of mustard in the State of West Bengal were financed by the Indian Central Oils Seeds Committee during the First Five Year Plan;

(b) the causes for the comparatively lower production of mustard seeds in the State in the later years of the First Five Year Plan; and

(c) the amount of mustard seeds and mustard oil transported to the State year by year from other States during the said plan period?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) One.

(b) Partly due to decrease in acreage and partly due to unfavourable weather conditions at the time of sowing as also during the growth period of the crop.

(c) A statement showing the quantity of rape and mustard seeds imported into West Bengal from other States during the years 1951-52 to 1954-55 is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 118] Figures for 1955-56 are not yet available. Similar figures in respect of mustard oil are not available.

All India Malnad Conference

*874. **Shri Barman** : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations made by the All India Malnad Conference held at Shimoga in April, 1954;

(b) the total areas of Malnad lands which came within the purview of this conference and the acreage that has been reclaimed and developed upto now;

(c) what is the extra production of food that has been obtained by development of such Malnad areas in the country; and

(d) how many landless people have been allotted land?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) Attention of the Hon. Member is invited to the reply given to Starred Question No. 755 on 16-8-1955. For convenience, a copy of the main recommendations made by the All India Malnad Committee is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 119.]

(b) to (d). The total area concerned is 25,000 sq. miles. Information regarding the acreage reclaimed and developed out of this area, the extra production therefrom and the land allotted is awaited from the State Governments.

Railway Platforms

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Estimates Committee have in its Twenty-fifth Report, recommended that a pucca platform surface should be provided at all stations and that the provision should accordingly be made in the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to accept this recommendation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This recommendation is in consonance with the policy already accepted by the Railways. The execution of such works, however, depends on the recommendation of the Users Amenities Committees and the availability of funds.

Gosadans

*877. **Shri D. C. Sharma** : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 965 on the 10th August, 1956 and state the nature of the scheme to improve the working of *Gosadans*?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (**Shri A. P. Jain**) : The nature of the Scheme to improve the working of the *Gosadans* is as under :—

- (i) provision of better transport facilities for cattle intended for *Gosadans*;
- (ii) provision of additional facilities for private *Gosadans*;
- (iii) Utilisation of existing *Goshalas* to serve as collection centres for old and useless cattle ; and
- (iv) establishment of a 'Charmalaya' at each *Gosadan* for proper flaying and economic utilisation of carcases.

Ernakulam-Kaserode Coastal Canal

*879. **Shri A. K. Gopalan** : Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal regarding the construction of a coastal canal connecting Ernakulam to Kaserode;

(b) if so, whether this scheme is included in the Second Five Year Plan and

(c) the steps taken so far in this regard?

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

(b) It has not been found possible to include the Scheme in the Second Five Year Plan for financial reasons.

(c) Does not arise.

Railway Workshop at Golden Rock

*883. **Shri Nambiar** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has instructed the Personnel Officers to maintain personal contacts with workers and redress their individual grievances; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the workers of Golden Rock Workshop generally have no chance of representing their individual grievances to the Personnel Officer informally as suggested by the Railway Board?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan**) : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

Wastage of Capital Assets

*884. **Shri Feroze Gandhi** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what action has been taken with regard to the findings of the Estimates Committee that there has been wastage of about Rs. 32.5 crores, in each of the years 1953-54 and 1954-55, due to the wastage of capital investments in terms of locomotives unutilised on the B.G., and, that there has been wastage of capital investments of the value of the Rs. 21 crores and Rs. 19 crores, in each of the years 1953-54 and 1954-55, due to the non-utilisation of capital assets in terms of locomotives unutilised on the M.G.

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan**) : The assessment of losses is based on an assumption that the best results obtained in the past could have been attained without any regard to the practical conditions operating in the years concerned. This assessment therefore, is purely thretical. However, continuous efforts has been made to get over the drawbacks of the past which were inherited as a result of the War and sustained attention has been paid to improve the operational efficiency. Results in 1955-56 and during the current year testify that the steps taken have proved effective.

Basic Training Centres

*889. **Shri Hem Raj** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 971 on the 25th August, 1956 and state the method to be adopted for the selection and the qualifications for admission of the artisan staff in the Basic Training Centres?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan**) : A statement is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 120.]

Control of T. B.

*891. **Shri Gidwani** : Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the resolution passed by the Delhi State T. B. Workers Association at their conference held in Delhi on 28th