

time did we depend upon the reports of the sugar mills or did we send our technicians to examine whether the recovery has gone down?

Shri S. K. Patil: The whole formula is so precise and mathematically worked out that the prices are slightly reduced to the point of 0.1, as is the rate here. It shows that there is a general formula for reduction, and that is done after examination. To the extent to which the recovery is less, the price is reduced.

Shri Tyagi: Who examines this?

Shri S. K. Patil: The officers appointed by the Government.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Procedure for Promotion on Southern Railway

*1492. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a rule that Railway employees above 45 years of age should not be called upto to sit for a written examination for the purposes of promotion; and

(b) whether this procedure is followed on the Southern Railway?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dredging Brahmaputra for Inland Transport

*1497. **Shri R. Barua:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the river Brahmaputra has undergone topographical change after the last earthquake;

(b) whether inland transport along the river Brahmaputra has been affected by this change necessitating sufficient dredging of the river at places to ease mounting transport difficulties;

(c) if so, whether the Government

have taken any steps in the matter; and

(d) the details thereof?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes. The earthquake of August, 1950 brought enormous quantities of silt and detritus into the Brahmaputra. In consequence, the river bed has risen in its upper reaches and become shallow, wide and more unstable than before. Shoals have formed at several places and erosion has increased.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The river is maintained in a navigable condition by the following action:—

(i) Bandalling, i.e., deflecting the flow of the river into selected channels by fixing rows of bamboo mats in the river at selected points.

(ii) Marking the course of the deep channels.

(iii) Scouring the shoals.

At present conservancy work is being done by the Joint Steamer Companies, who are the principal operators on the Brahmaputra. Since 1958-59, they have been receiving grants from the Central Government for this purpose.

Since the scouring of the shoals is not effective without a dredger, the Ganga Brahmaputra Water Transport Board is purchasing a 14" cutter suction dredger at a cost of Rs. 21.49 lakhs. It is expected that the dredger will be available for use within a year.

Per Capita Consumption of Electricity in Andhra Pradesh

*1504. **Shri Laxmi Dass:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the per capita consumption of electricity of 15 K.w.h. in Andhra Pradesh at the