

SUGAR FACTORIES

378. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the number of new sugar factories established in India during 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 State-wise?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. L. Wai): A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Number of new sugar factories installed in the various States during the period 1947-48 to 1951-52

Name of State	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52
Ajmer	1	..	..	..	..
Travancore-Cochin	..	1	..	..	..
Madhya Bharat	..	1	..	..	..
Madras	..	..	1	1	1
Bombay	..	..	..	1	..
Hyderabad	..	..	..	1	1
	1	2	1	3	2

ROADS IN SCHEDULED AREAS OF ORISSA

379. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to take up construction of new roads or improvement to the existing roads in the Scheduled areas of the State of Orissa under the National Highways Development Programme; and

(b) if so, where and in what parts of the State?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) National Highway No. 6 (Bombay-Calcutta Road) passing through Mayurbhanj is being developed as a fully bridged road. Also some improvement works are being done on National Highway No. 5 (Calcutta-Madras Road) in Mayurbhanj and National Highway No. 48 (Raipur-Vizianagram Road) in Koraput area.

DISPLACED PERSONS (CONFIRMATION)

380. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons employed under the Government of India after the Partition; and

(b) the number out of (a) so far confirmed?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

CARRIAGE OF POSTAL MAILS ETC.

381. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amount charged by the Railways for the carriage of postal mails (i) from the Posts and Telegraphs Department (ii) from the Defence Department for the movement of military traffic both personnel and stores and (iii) from the Food Department for the carriage of foodgrains during 1951-52?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the revenue derived by Railways by way of transport charges during 1951-52 from (i) the Posts and Telegraphs Department, (ii) the Defence Ministry and (iii) the Food Ministry at the Centre and Food Departments in the States.

So far as items (i) and (ii) are concerned, the amounts involved are (i) Rs. 63,37,888 and (ii) Rs. 7,77,16,486 respectively.

So far as item (iii) is concerned, separate figures of revenue derived from the carriage of foodgrains for the Food Ministry and Food Departments alone are not readily available. The total revenue derived by railways from the carriage of foodgrains traffic covering all movements amounted to Rs. 16,13,08,219 during 1951-52.

AVENUE TREES

382. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the number of avenue trees on the National Highways;

(b) the steps that are being taken to maintain the trees that are in existence and to plant new trees; and

(c) the amount provided for this purpose?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) to (c). The maintenance of trees along National Highways is a part of the ordinary maintenance and repairs of these highways. Information as to the number and cost of maintenance of avenue trees on these highways is not readily available and the time, labour and expense involved in its collection

by hundreds of executive officers of all the State Public Works Departments concerned will not be commensurate with the result.

LOCUSTS SWARMS

383. Shri Muniswamy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that locusts swarms have been noticed flying over Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to prevent the menace?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Action taken and going to be taken to meet the locust menace.

Action taken—

The Central Locust Organisation which is responsible for control operations in the scheduled desert areas in Rajasthan, Punjab, Pepsu, Bombay, Saurashtra and Kutch have divided it into three Circles, each in charge of an experienced Entomologist, with headquarters at Bikaner, Jodhpur and Palanpur. At other places which are important from the point of view of locust strategy, particularly along the Indo-Pakistan borders, there are outposts at about 60 points, which are equipped with poison, hand and power dusting and spraying machines and motor transport. The strength of the Organisation has recently been increased temporarily to meet the menace. Some additional insecticides and equipment have also been purchased. Many of the places have been equipped with radio transmitting facilities for quick and timely activity.

As regards the States which are threatened with locust invasion, the preparations have been made more or less on the above lines, according to the requirements of the State concerned.

Action to be taken—

Under the Point Four Programme of the U.S.A. three small aeroplanes will be arriving in India (Jaisalmer) by the middle of this month, for locust spraying operations. The following equipment is also being obtained under a recent Agreement concluded with the Technical Co-operation Administration in India:—

- (i) 75 light vehicles.
- (ii) 50 power sprayers.
- (iii) 25 power dusters.
- (iv) 8 wireless sets.

Pending the arrival of the equipment from U.S.A. arrangements are being made with the Defence Services and T.C.A. authorities to obtain on loan some vehicles and jeeps from them respectively. Some power sprayers and dusters are also being purchased from stocks in India, which will be financed from the T.C.A. funds.

MERCY PETITIONS

384. Shri Muniswamy: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how many petitions for mercy from condemned prisoners were received during the year 1952 up-to-date and

(b) how they have been disposed of?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) 99.

(b) In 18 cases the sentence of death was commuted to transportation for life and in one to 7 years' imprisonment. The remaining 80 cases were rejected.