

(b) The final selection will be made in the second week of March, 1954.

(c) Does not arise.

PRICE OF SUGAR CANE

***252. Shri M. L. Agrawal:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether Government intend to grade and scale the minimum price of sugar cane in proportion to the percentage of recovery of sugar?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The question of linking sugarcane price with recovery of sugar from cane, is under consideration.

CHOLERA IN AGARTALA

***253. Shri Biren Dutt:** (a) Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state how many people died of Cholera in Agartala Town in December, 1953?

(b) How many people were vaccinated and inoculated in Agartala during December, 1953?

(c) How many people in Agartala have died during this year of small-pox?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to protect the people from epidemics?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Ten.

(b) 11,280 people were vaccinated and 7,205 were inoculated in Agartala during 1953. Separate figures for December 1953 are not readily available.

(c) None.

(d) Mass inoculation and vaccination, necessary sanitary measures and suitable health propaganda work are being carried out in Tripura. A 10-bedded ward for smallpox cases was added to the V.M. Hospital in Agartala in 1953. A proposal to add another 10-bedded infectious diseases ward, for cholera cases, to the V. M. Hospital, Agartala, during 1954-55 is under consideration.

BONE-MEAL

***254. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new type of 'digerster' has been designed by the Ministry for manufacture of bone-meal manure; and

(b) if so, whether this is more advantageous in utility or price than other phosphate compounds?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) A plant called bone-digerster has been designed in which bones can be steamed and softened for easy conversion into bonemeal manure.

(b) I presume the hon. Member is referring to the advantage of bonemeal manure over phosphate compounds; if so, the reply is in the affirmative.

VANASPATI

***255. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the average quantity of edible and non-edible oils, if any, used annually in Vanaspati manufacture; and

(b) the difference in the price per maund of the original oil and that of its manufactured product, viz., Vanaspati?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The average quantity of edible oils used annually in vanaspati manufacture since 1949 is about 2 lakh tons. Use of non-edible oils is prohibited in the manufacture of vanaspati.

(b) The difference in the price of original oil and that of vanaspati is approximately Rs. 20 per maund inclusive of excise duty of Rs. 5-2-0 per maund.

DELHI HOSPITALS

***256. Shri Keshavaiengar:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state the total number of beds in all the

Central Government hospitals in Old Delhi, New Delhi and Delhi Cantonment?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): 1,119.

GRAM SEVAKS

*257. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of centres opened in the Punjab State to train *Gram Sevaks* or Village Level Workers; and

(b) what method is adopted to select these trainees?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) (i) Extension Training Centre, Nilokheri.

(ii) Extension Training Centre, Batala.

(b) The procedure for selection of the trainees is as follows:—

Initial selection is made by the State Government, of 20 per cent. more than the number of candidates required, through a Selection Board consisting of the State Development Commissioner, the Director of Agriculture, the Principal of the Training Centre in which the Gram Sevaks are to be trained and one or two non-officials. The main features of the selection are a ploughing test and interview to judge the personality, physical fitness and general knowledge etc. of the candidates. After admission to the Training Centre a record of the day to day progress of each individual trainee both in the class and in field is maintained through a card system and after a month weeding-out of the unsuitable candidates is done on the basis of the progress indicated in their cards.

फाइलेरिया

*२५८. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) किन किन क्षेत्रों में फाइलेरिया रोग बहुत फैला हुआ है तथा इस रोग से लगभग कितने व्यक्ति ग्रस्त हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सत्य है कि यह रोग पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में बहुत फैला हुआ है; तथा

(ग) इस रोग को रोकने के लिये सरकार किन उपायों के करने का विचार करती है ?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) and (b). Filaria is most prevalent in the States of Saurashtra, Travancore-Cochin, Madras, Andhra, Hyderabad, Orissa, West Bengal, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, and to a lesser extent in the States of Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Vindhya Pradesh and Assam.

In the absence of a country-wide filaria survey, it is not possible to state the actual number of cases suffering from filariasis, but 20 to 25 millions is a rough estimate.

(c) Although Public Health is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and steps to check the incidence of the disease should be taken by them, a scheme for the control of filariasis, on a nation wide scale has been prepared by the Central Government, as a part of the Five Year Plan, and the State Governments where filariasis is a problem, have been invited to participate in the scheme.

NAGPUR AIR CRASH

22. **Shrimati Kamalendu Mati Shah:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of compensation, if any, paid to the families of the victims of the Nagpur Air Crash;

(b) whether any compulsory insurance scheme has been or is proposed to be introduced for air passengers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Indian Airlines Corporation is making arrangements to pay to the families or the nominees of the crew, who were