

(a) whether any offer had been made to any agency of the Delhi State Government to take over the Delhi Milk Supply Scheme;

(b) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh is in any way connected with the Meerut Co-operative Milk Supply Union, Limited, Meerut; and

(c) the total amount arrived at in terms of the agreement with the said Union as payable to the Central Government?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) Yes. An offer was made to the Delhi State Government in November, 1954, but there was no response from the State Government.

(b) A statement is appended. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 10].

(c) Approximately a sum of Rs. 3.07 lakhs which represents the difference of receipts and expenditure of the scheme upto 31st July, 1955 is payable to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Iron Sleepers on Railways

193. Pandit D. N. Tiwary : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wooden sleepers are being replaced by iron sleepers on Railway track;

(b) whether the iron sleepers are cheaper than wooden sleepers; and

(c) the durability of each kind of sleepers?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) :

(a) Not in all cases.

(b) According to the average annual cost of a sleeper based on its life in the track, steel and cast iron sleepers are cheaper in annual cost than wooden sleepers.

(c) The steel sleepers have a life of approx. 35 years in the track, cast iron are expected to give 40 years life and untreated wooden sleepers have a life of 12 to 14 years and with treatment the age in service can be raised to 16—18 years.

B. C. G. Campaign

194. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the expenditure to be incurred on the B.C.G. Campaign in the various States during the year 1955-56, Statewise?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur) : An expenditure of Rs. 4,67,000/- is expected to be incurred by

the Government of India on the B.C.G. vaccination campaign in India, on the running expenses of the Central B.C.G. Organisation and the B.C.G., Vaccine Laboratory, Guindy.

Information regarding the expenditure to be incurred by the various States on the B.C.G. Campaign is being collected and when available will be placed on the table of the Sabha.

P. & T. Offices in Punjab

195. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of combined Posts and Telegraphs Offices in the Punjab State as on the 31st October, 1955;

(b) the number of Post Offices in Hoshiarpur District as on the 30th November, 1955; and

(c) the number of Telephone Exchanges and connections in the Punjab State as on the 31st October, 1955?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) : (a) 326.

(b) 53 including 26 combined post and telegraph offices.

(c) 47 and 7,503 respectively.

Sugar Research

196. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred on sugar research during 1954-55?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The Central Government incurred an expenditure of Rs. 21.31 lacs during 1954-55 on sugar and sugarcane research.

Scheduled Castes and Tribes in Railway Services

197. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes employed in the different grades in the Northern Railway at present;

(b) whether Government have fixed any quota for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes for employment in this Railway; and

(c) if so, whether the quota for 1954 has been filled up?