

(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?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (c). A statement is attached. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 11].

(b) Yes, Sir.

#### Accidents in Mines

**198. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1700 on the 30th March, 1955 and state:

(a) the number of accidents occurred in the coal mines during the period from January to October, 1955; and

(b) the number of workers involved therein?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) and (b). The information is available for the period from January, 1955 to September, 1955, and is given below:—

Number of accidents.	Number of fatal accidents.	Number of Serious accidents.	Number of persons killed.	Number of persons injured.
168	1920	259	1988	

#### Indian Cargo Vessels

**199. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the present strength of the Indian cargo vessels and the routes on which they ply?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** The Indian Cargo fleet consists of 117 ships of a GRT of 473,543. They are employed in the following trades:—

Trade	No. of ships	GRT.
I Coastal	84	252,583
II Overseas		
(a) India/UK/Continent	24	168,806
(b) India/Persian Gulf	3	9,861
(c) India/Australia	2	14,433
(d) India/Japan/Far East	2	10,759
(e) India/Singapore	1	8,580
(f) India/East Africa	1	8,521
	117	473,543

The above position is as on the 31st October 1955.

#### Railway Accidents

200. { Shri R. N. Singh;  
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents that took place during the period from the 1st January to the 30th September, 1955;

(b) how do these figures compare with the corresponding period of the last year;

(c) whether Government have received enquiry reports in respect of all the accidents;

(d) in how many cases the human element and failure of mechanical equipment were responsible for these accidents; and

(e) the steps, if any, taken to remove the causes of the accidents?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) 2600 train accidents.

(b) The figure of train accidents during the year 1955 shows a decline as compared to the figure for the corresponding period of the last year, which was 2684.

(c) Yes; except in 122 cases.

(d) Failure of human element.

(i) Railway staff . . . . . 993

(ii) Other than Railway Staff . . . . . 88

TOTAL . . . . . 1081

Failure of Mechanical Equipment 986

(e) Among the measures generally taken are:—

Effective disciplinary action against railway staff held responsible for accident.

Education of staff in the safety rules through periodicals, circular letters etc.

Tightening up of supervision and control.

Frequent warnings to staff to remain vigilant and cautious and making them more safety minded.

Provision of refresher courses at training schools at regular intervals.

Systematic examination and intensive inspection of Permanent Way and rolling stock etc.