

of the local market situated in the reserved or free areas of the sugar factories with the result that the already existing scarcity in supply of wagon is further accentuated by the use of the wagons in transporting sugar from the area of one sugar factory to that of others; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any scheme for rationalising the distribution of sugar to the best use of the available limited number of wagons?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b) There is no control over the distribution of sugar and factories are free to sell released sugar anywhere in India and at the best obtainable price. It is to be presumed that to avoid transport charges the entire local demand would be met before sugar is despatched to distant places. Government do not propose to undertake responsibility for sale and despatch of sugar from factories.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

***1380. Shri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Employment Exchanges have failed to register the names of scheduled tribes in as good a number as they are; and

(b) the steps taken to disseminate employment opportunities by the Employment Exchanges amongst tribal people in interior areas?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai): (a) and (b) About 20,000 candidates of scheduled tribes registered themselves in the last twelve months. This number is small compared to the total number of persons in this category but there is no advantage in conducting a drive for registration when the employment opportunities are comparatively small. Special consideration is given by Exchanges to scheduled tribes candidates. A quota is reserved for them and if a vacancy cannot be filled locally, it is circulated to other Exchanges and

scheduled tribes associations are contacted for suggestions. An arrangement has also been made for a secondary registration for candidates who seek employment in the Central Government service at Delhi.

GARO HILLS RAIL LINK

***1383. Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 79 on the 22nd November, 1955 and state the stage at which the constructing railway lines in Garo Hills stands?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The Traffic Survey has since been completed and the Report is under examination. The Preliminary Engineering Survey has yet to be taken up. The construction of the line will be considered after the Survey Reports have been examined.

MEDICINAL PLANTS

***1384. Shri M. Islamuddin:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any possibility of large scale cultivation of medicinal plants in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government for cultivating them on an increased scale?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 6.]

EXPLOSIVE ON RAILWAY TRACK

***1385. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some explosives were found on the railway track near Nautanwa station (Gorakhpur) on the 12th March, 1956 and were removed by the Police;

(b) if so, the type of the explosives; and