

(c) The increase is due to the increase in the cost of groundnut oil, its main raw material.

### Shahganj-Mau Section

1287. **Shri Kalika Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1170 on the 9th December, 1958 and state:

(a) whether re-laying of the existing 41½ lbs. rails with 60 lbs. 'R' rails on existing sleepers on the Shahganj-Mau Section of the Northern Railway has been included in the 1959-60 works programme;

(b) how old are these existing rails;

(c) whether re-laying will make it possible for running fast trains from Shahganj to Katihar and onwards; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to convert Mau-Shahganj line into B.G. line or for making it a multiple track?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) Yes, Sir. It is included in the North Eastern Railway's Works Programmes for 1959-60.

(b) About 50 years.

(c) Re-laying will allow higher speeds of trains on Shahganj-Mau Section. The section Mau to Katihar and onwards is already laid with heavier rails and can allow running of fast trains.

(d) No.

### Wooden Sleepers

1288. **Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wooden sleepers purchased from Assam during 1958-59; and

(b) the value of the sleepers?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) 3.73 lakhs (Nos.).

(b) Rs. 44.33 lakhs.

### Cheque System in Post Offices in Delhi

1289. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Post Offices in Delhi where cheque system has been introduced so far; and

(b) the number of post offices where cheque system is proposed to be introduced during the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):** (a) 118.

(b) The cheque system remains to be introduced only at two post offices opened recently.

### Raising of Platforms

1290. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to raise the level of platforms of some stations on the Pathankot-Jullundur section of Northern Railway;

(b) if so, the names of such stations; and

(c) when the work will start?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

### Pathankot Station

1291. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of incoming and outgoing passengers at the Pathankot Station, Northern Railway, in 1958-59?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** The number of incoming and outgoing passen-