

(b) According to the preliminary enquiry the derailment was the result of breakage of an old rail under load.

SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY: Sir, ordinarily such questions are replied to in the Ministry of Railways and not by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. If there was some defect in the under-frame of the carriages due to metal fatigue or in the wheels or % sausages in the wheels, the Train Examiners must have certified that the train is o.k. to start. May I know whether this had been done before the train started from Bhusaval?

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, I must admit that I was myself surprised to find *this question* in my Ministry and not in the Railway Ministry, but I made enquiries and I found that the Commissioner of Railway Safety was attached to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Therefore, Sir, we have to answer this question.

The preliminary report has already been received but it will take another several weeks, perhaps months, for the final report to be completed. There are a large number of procedures which have got to be gone into before the final report comes. When the final report comes, if any action is necessary in view of what the hon. Member has pointed out, it will certainly be taken.

*228. [The questioner (Shri Raj-narain) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1363-1864 infra.]

INCREASE IN PRICE OF DMS MILK

*229. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Milk Scheme has decided to raise the price of standardised milk; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI D. ERING): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise,

श्री जगत नारायण : क्या वजीर साहब यह बतलाएंगे कि पिछले तीन सालों में दूध का भाव किस तरह बढ़ा है फी किलो ? उन्होंने जवाब दिया कि शायद अभी आगे तो नहीं बढ़ाना चाहते हैं, लेकिन पिछले तीन सालों में दूध का भाव कितनी दफा बढ़े हैं ।

दूसरा मेरा सवाल यह है कि क्या यह सही है कि यह जो दूध का भाव बढ़ा है, उसकी वजह यह है कि रोज जो दूध की बोतलें लोड की जाती हैं, उनमें से कम से कम 1,500 बोतलें दूध की टूट जाती हैं और मनों दूध जाया चला जाता है और बड़ा अनइकॉनॉमिक स्टाफ रखा हुआ है, जिसकी जह त दूध के भाव ज्यादा हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: It has been stated in the main part of my reply that there is no intention immediately to raise the price of milk. But as far as the previous prices were concerned, previous to 10-6-65 the prices were:

	P	per litre
Buffalo milk	..	70
Cow's milk	..	70
Toned milk	..	44

From 10-6-65 the prices were raised to-

Standardised milk	..	70
Cow's milk	..	70
Toned milk	..	54
Double toned	..	40

From 12-11-65 the prices were—

Standardised milk	..	84
Cow's milk	..	84
Toned milk	..	54
Double toned	..	40

With regard to the other part of the question of the hon. Member, the breakage of bottles is obviously there. All the world over and in India wherever these glass bottles are used, some percentage of breakage is there, but the percentage is very low

श्री जगत नारायण : 1,500 बाटल्स रोज जो टूटती हैं, इसकी कोई तसदीक नहीं की है आपने . . .

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: As far as the economics of the dairy is concerned, we did incur some loss during the last few years, but this year the loss has been more or less made up.

श्री जगत नारायण : क्या डीजरी साहब बतलाएंगे कि क्या यह जो दूध सप्लाय किया जात है, वह अपनी डेरीज से सप्लाय किया जाता है या बाहर से खरीदा जाता है ? अगर बाहर से खरीदा जाता है तो किस भाव से खरीदा जाता है, कितना डिफरेंस है कन्ज्यूमर्स को सप्लाय करने में ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Obviously the milk is procured from the milk selling areas in HP., Punjab, Haryana and Bikaner in Rajasthan. The procurement prices of course differ from season to season. But if I may quote the recent figures of procurement prices, in January the average procurement price has been 69.25 P. per litre; February 70 P., and the present rate is about 77.5 P. In addition to procurement charges, by way of commission to contractors, we also incur expenditure for processing and distribution. On an average it comes to 21 P. per litre.

DR ANUP SINGH: »i.e. hon. Minister of State has said that there is no proposal to raise the price of milk immediately. Do we take it that he contemplates raising it anyhow?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: As I have mentioned immediately. We are not contemplating that. But the

point is the ruling market price is Rs. 1.25 per litre, while the milk which we sell to the consumers is at 84 P. standard, toned milk at 54 P., and double toned ⁴⁰ P. There is a wide disparity. There is the other aspect to the problem because we have to look to the economy of the producers also. But may I assure the hon. Member that immediately we are not contemplating anything? But I do not know what will happen after a year or a few months because the thing has to be assessed from time to time.

श्री विमल कुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया : क्या श्रीमान् को यह ज्ञात है कि दिल्ली मिल्क स्कीम में होने वाला नुकसान प्रति वर्ष बढ़ोतरी पर रहा है 1962-63 में यह नुकसान था 10 लाख 64 हजार, 1963-64 में था 23 लाख 9 हजार और 1964-65 में वह बढ़कर 57 लाख 70 हजार हो गया । तो यह नुकसान न हो और उपभोक्ता को भी दाम कम देना पड़े, इसके बारे में क्या कोई जांच करके उचित व्यवस्था करने की सोच रहे हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: The hon. Member has drawn attention to a very important aspect of the problem. We were also very much concerned about the losses incurred by the Delhi Milk Scheme. As a result, an Enquiry Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kurien who is an eminent dairy expert in our country. As a result of his suggestions I think the situation has now considerably improved, and that is why this year there is no loss. In fact we made some marginal profit, but our intention is not to earn a profit out of this scheme but to run it on a "no loss, no profit" basis. But may I also submit that all the other milk schemes in the country are selling milk at a much higher price than we are selling in Delhi?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know how many times the price of milk, butter and ghee have been

raised by this Scheme during the last four years?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I have already- explained the position. From 1964 onwards whatever price increase has been made, I have stated that before this House just now.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: May I know whether the Minister's attention has been drawn to a recent feature in *The Statesman* calling attention to the rudeness, graft and corruption on the part of the employees of the Delhi Milk Scheme? If so, what steps have the Minister taken in regard to that?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I cannot guarantee that there is no malpractice anywhere, but recently one very disturbing feature we have noticed; there has been some tampering with the seals of the bottles and I am really sorry to state this. Most of the employees are students. They are employed part-time. If our student community takes to this thing, it is a very unfortunate thing for our country. We have tightened up the supervision machinery. We have appointed more inspectors and they are checking up now. I think more or less it is now under control.

SHRI V. V. RAMASWAMY: It seems there is considerable disparity between the prices ruling in the market and also the price that has been charged by the Scheme. May I know whether the disparity affects the supply of milk to the milk project?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We have firm contracts with the contractors. Of course these market prices have necessarily some effect on the price at which the Delhi Milk Scheme procures milk. By and large as a result of our procurement contract with the contractors the supply position is improving as compared to the last few years.

VESSELS SEIZED BY PAKISTAN DURING THE CONFLICT

*230. SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJU-NUDU: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state the number of Indian vessels seized by Pakistan during the 1965 conflict and how they were disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): Three ocean-going ships, four sailing vessels and 173 Inland Water Transport craft belonging to India were seized by Pakistan during the 1965 conflict. Two of our ocean going vessels were returned to us in October 1966 in exchange for two oceangoing ships belonging to Pakistan held by us. All the other vessels are still held up in Pakistan.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: May I know what is the value of the ships seized and the tonnage and whether the ships seized by them have been disposed of by the Pakistan Government? If they are disposed of, may I know whether they have done it in accordance with the rules of international law or any international convention?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: The insured value of the three ships is Rs. 145 lakhs; of the sailing vessels about Rs. 12J lakhs; and of the inland water transport belonging to the Rivera Steam Navigation Company it has been estimated at Rs. 180 lakhs. Two of these ocean-going vessels which have been returned—they in fact constitute the bulk of the value— "Saraswati" and "Jalarajendra",

J account for an insured value of Rs.

I 134 lakhs. Regarding the last question, the third ship which is a small one called "Shakila" is still in the hands of Pakistan, and we have one of their ships in our hands. Negotiations are going on for the mutual return of these two ships. So far nothing very much has happened. Meanwhile there was a complaint that this ship was ; placed before the Courts in Pakistan