

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI S. D. MISRA) : (a) No targets of rural electrification were set forth for the First Plan. During the Second and the Third Plan periods targets of electrifying 10,000 and 20,000 villages respectively had been set.

(b) During the First and the Second Plans 5991 and 17,351 villages were electrified. During the current Plan 18,118 villages have been electrified up to 31st March 1965. Another 8678 villages are likely to be electrified up to 31st March 1966.

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF FOOD ADULTERATION

397. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the number of laboratories in India which conducted analysis in the cases of food adulteration in 1964-65;

(b) the number of cases in which pure ghee was analysed in these laboratories during the above period and the names of those laboratories; and

(c) the number of cases in which ghee was found adulterated with vanaspati as a result of the analysis?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR) : (a) to (c) Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

AMERICAN EXPERT TO STUDY EROSION BY BRAHMAPUTRA

398. SHRI RAM SING: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased, to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 484 in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th September, 1965 and state :

(a) whether the American expert who was to examine the problem of erosion by the Brahmaputra has since arrived; and

(b) if not, when he is likely to come?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI S. D. MISRA): (a) Not yet.

(b) No clear date can be indicated at the moment.

FOREIGN ECONOMIC AID

399. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of economic aid received from various foreign countries during the last three months and the purposes for which it was received?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No 45.]

12 NOON

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

RISE IN THE PRICE OF IMPORTED TRACTORS

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I rise to call the attention of the Minister of Commerce to the rise in the price of imported tractors as a result of a levy imposed by the State Trading Corporation, and its effect on the cultivators and food production.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): There is a wide gap in the selling price of indigenous tractors and the imported tractors, which are being imported only from the East European countries including the U.S.S.R. through the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.). In order to rationalise the selling prices of tractors in India, it was considered that the prices of the tractors imported by the S.T.C. from East European countries should be marked-up and with the amount thus realised a pool should be created out of which assistance should be made available to the purchasers of indigenous tractors. The S. T. C. was asked to undertake the administration of this pool.

In view of several representations received from Agricultural interests, the matter was reconsidered by the Government and it has now been decided that the *status quo ante* may be restored. Thus there will be no mark-up in the prices of imported tractors for the present.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Thank you, Sir and congratulations for this belated act of wisdom.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): I would like to know whether these imported tractors are imported on trade account or by the S.T.C.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Same thing; they are imported from some of these countries.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: S.T.C. or private?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Different interests which I have mentioned.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया (मध्य प्रदेश) : श्रीमान् यह बतलायेगे कि कितने रुपये पर कितनी लवी बढ़ाई गई है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : यह बात तो अब खत्म हो गई है ।

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया : वह क्या थी ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : वह यह थी कि ४ हजार रुपये से ५ हजार रुपये तक तो एक तरफ बढ़ाया गया था और एक हजार रुपये से १५०० रुपये तक सबसिडी देना था ।

SHRI C. M. POONACHA (Mysore): While congratulating the Minister and the Government for having restored the *status quo* may I ask the hon. Minister to see that this *status quo ante* continues for a longer period of time and not only for the present?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That is a suggestion for action, Sir.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL (Delhi): While I am happy with the decision announced by the Minister, I hope the Government will give up the policy of increasing the price at random without giving any serious thought to the details and then coming and announcing that it has been withdrawn and then earning the gratitude of the House because the prices are not being affected.

MR. CHAIRMAN . I will pass on to the next item.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

THE CENTRAL EXCISE (NINTH AMENDMENT) RULES, 1965

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR SHAU) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under section 38 of the Central Excises

and Salt Act, 1944, a copy of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification G.S.R. No. 1659, dated the 15th November, 1965, publishing the Central Excise (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 1965 [Placed in Library. See No LT-5232/65.]

STATEMENT RE COLLISION BETWEEN A PASSENGER TRAIN AND A GOODS TRAIN

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH): At about 5 50 hrs on 28-11-1965 shuttle train No 2 Dn AS (Andal-Sainthia) Passenger entered the main line of Panchra station situated on Andal-Sainthia single line section of Eastern Railway and collided with a stationary shunting goods train which had been received on that line a short while before.

As a result of the collision, the engine of the passenger train got derailed. The end panel of the 3rd class coach, next to the engine, was slightly damaged

Thirty persons including 11 railway employees were injured. The injuries of three persons including 2 railway employees are said to be serious

Relief train with medical equipment was despatched to the site of accident immediately on receipt of information. Some local doctors also rushed to the site of accident and rendered first aid. The medical van from Asansol was also rushed to the site. The Divisional Railway Officers from Asansol proceeded to the site by road.

Of the injured persons, 13 were discharged after first aid at the site of accident. The remaining 17 persons were sent to hospital at Asansol, Siuri and Andal. Nine persons were discharged from the hospitals after preliminary medical attention. Eight persons are still in hospitals and are reported to be progressing.

Ex gratia payment to the seriously injured persons have been arranged.

The Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety, Calcutta has commenced his statutory enquiry into the cause of the accident