

*742. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3945-46 infra.]

CONCRETE SLEEPERS ON RAILWAYS

*743. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to use concrete sleepers in place of wooden and cast iron ones; and

(b) if so, what will be the annual estimated requirement of concrete sleepers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir. The practicability of using concrete sleepers on Indian Railways is still being studied.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: What is the requirement of wooden and iron sleepers at the present moment?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, I shall require separate notice for that.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मैं यह जान सकूंगा कि वुडेन और सीमेंट के स्लीपर्स की कास्ट में क्या अन्तर आता है ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, the cost of imported steel sleepers for the broad gauge is Rs. 74 and the approximate life is 35 years; indigenous steel broad gauge sleepers cost Rs. 44 and metre gauge sleepers cost Rs. 30; cast iron sleepers for the broad gauge cost Rs. 46.70 and for metre gauge it is Rs. 27.20. Hard wood sleepers cost Rs. 25.50 for the broad gauge and Rs. 13.25 for the metre gauge and soft wood sleepers cost Rs. 28.50 for the broad gauge and Rs. 14.50 for the metre gauge. Prices vary from Rs. 37 to Rs. 69 for concrete sleepers for the broad gauge and from Rs. 24 to Rs. 27.12 for the metre gauge depending on the type.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: What is the normal life of a wooden sleeper in comparison with the other types?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It is fifteen years in the case of hard wood and twelve in the case of soft wood.

EXPENDITURE ON DELHI ZOOLOGICAL PARK

*744. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the average monthly expenditure incurred on the staff and animals in the Delhi Zoological Park?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): Rs. 35,500.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Is it for the staff and the animals?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: For the staff it is Rs. 18,000 and the average monthly expenditure for maintaining the animals comes to Rs. 17,500. Some sort of proportion is being maintained.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know the number of the staff and the number of the animals?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The present sanctioned strength is Class I three, Class II one, Class III 132 and Class IV 182 but some posts remain unfilled. There are 409 animals, 814 birds four reptiles and fifty-six other varieties.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know the reasons for so many posts remaining unfilled?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It is difficult to get suitable officers but the work is not suffering because of it.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know whether there were any complaints that the animals in the zoo did not get sufficient quantity of food and have Government enquired into the allegation? If so, what action has been taken against the culprits?