

(b) Profit and loss accounts are prepared on the basis of crop years (from July to June). During the past five crop years the profit/loss has been as follows: —

Crop year	Profit Rs.	Loss Rs.
1956-57	7,601	
1957-58	..	1,26,567
1958-59	5,47,93 +	
1959-60	41,973	
1960-61	5,15,904	

DISPOSAL OF FERROUS SCRAP BY THE RAILWAYS THROUGH PUBLIC TENDERS

63. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of ferrous scrap disposed of by the Railways by sale through public tenders during the years 1955 to 1961 and the amount of revenue earned thereby;

(b) the total quantity of railway scrap melted by railway workshops and private sector foundries for manufacture of railway stores during the years 1955 to 1961; and

(c) the total quantity of scrap distributed to indigenous scrap-users at the direction of the Iron and Steel Controller during the years 1955 to 1961?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) (i) Quantity—16,500 tons (Approx.)

(ii) Revenue earned—Rs. 34 lakhs (Approx.)

(b) (i) By Railway workshops—2,39,000 tons (approx.)

(ii) By Private Sector foundries—2,39,000 tons (approx.)

(c) 5,05,000 tons (approx.)

Note.—Figures relate to the period 1-4-55 to 31-3-1961.

INCREASE IN VIRUS DISEASES

64. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to medical experts virus diseases in India are increasing; and

(b) whether there has been any fresh outbreak of encephalitis in Jam-shedpur and Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) The Government of India have not received any reports to show that there has been an increase in the incidence of virus diseases in the country.

(b) No.

SMOKING AND CANCER

65. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether her attention has been drawn to the report of the Royal College of Physicians in London on the steep increase in death rates from cancer on account of cigarette smoking;

(b) whether any reports have been made by Indian doctors to Government of professional bodies regarding connection between smoking and cancer; and

(c) what steps, if any, Government propose to take to restrict or control smoking habit in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) (i) The Central Health Education Bureau has brought out a number of booklets and has produced some films as part of the campaign against cancer.

(ii) Smoking is banned in cinema houses and discouraged in railways and in public transport buses.

(iii) Possession and purchase of tobacco in any form by children under 12 years is banned in West Bengal.