

(3) *Canals*.—The investigation of the alignment of the main canal is complete and construction for a length of 10 miles in the 3rd and 4th reaches has been taken up. Investigations in respect of branch canals and distributaries are in progress.

(b) The embankments constructed so far have given protection to the following areas:—

The entire Purnea district;

Seven-eighths of Saharsa district; and

Three-fourths of the Kosi affected areas in Darbhanga district.

DAK-TAR JOURNAL

*58. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present circulation of the monthly journal "Dak-Tar"; and

(b) what is the monthly expenditure incurred on and income derived from this journal, and whether it is proposed to publish this journal in any script or language other than Hindi and English?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Average monthly circulation is 981.

(b) Expenditure—Rs. 2,979 p.m.;
Income—Rs. 693 p.m.

It is not proposed to publish this journal in any script or language other than Hindi and English.

THREAT OF STRIKE BY THE ALL-INDIA RAILWAY MINISTERIAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

*59. SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All-India Railway Ministerial Staff Association have threatened that its members will go on total strike; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, from which date they propose to go on strike?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). No intimation to this effect has been received from the Association which is not a recognised one.

SHORT RECOVERY OF SUGAR IN BIHAR

*60. SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar industry in Bihar is facing a grave situation due to less recovery of sugar in the 1956-57 season; and

(b) how many maunds of sugar were lost as a result of the short recovery?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN):

(a) No. The average recovery of sugar obtained in Bihar in 1956-57 season was 9.37 per cent. as against 9.76 per cent. last year. Slight fall or rise in recovery is unavoidable due to the effect of natural factors like droughts and floods, damage to crop by pests and diseases, etc.

(b) On the basis of last year's recovery, the loss of sugar this year will work out to about 3.56 lakh maunds or 13,000 tons.

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION— POWER SUPPLY AT GAYA

*61. SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power supply from the Damodar Valley Corporation was made available at Gaya on the 30th June, 1957;

(b) whether it is a fact that a limited amount of power was being received from Bokaro Thermal

Power Station at Gaya for the past one year and if so, whether it has now been linked up directly with the main grid system of Damodar Valley Corporation; and

(c) the time by which full quantity of power will be supplied to Gaya?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI S. K. PATIL): (a) The D.V.C. has been supplying power to the Government of Bihar at Gaya since the 17th May, 1956.

(b) No, Sir. The full amount of power asked for was being supplied at Gaya from the main grid system of D.V.C. comprising the Bokaro Thermal Power Station and Tilaiya Hydro-Electric Station from the date of commencement of supply.

(c) Does not arise.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT TELEGRAPHIC CONNECTION BETWEEN TRIVANDRUM AND KOZHIKODE

*62. SHRI A. V. KUNHAMBUR: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to establish direct telegraphic connection between Trivandrum and Kozhikode;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Post Master General, Madras received complaints about delay in telegrams sent from Trivandrum to Kozhikode; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Proposal has been initiated.

(b) One complaint had been received.

(c) (1). Orders have been issued to transmit the telegrams via Madras in case of interruption on the normal route.

(2) The proposal of introducing a direct circuit between Kozhikode and Trivandrum is being examined.

PEPPER CULTIVATION

*63. SHRI A. V. KUNHAMBUR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of pepper in the country is decreasing year by year;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to improve pepper cultivation; and

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to open a pepper research station at Payyanur?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN):

(a) No.

(b) The following steps are being taken to further increase its production:

(i) Research stations are being set up.

(ii) Development schemes are being sanctioned to increase production by intensive as well as extensive methods of cultivation.

(iii) Nurseries for production and supply of high-quality planting material are being set up.

(c) No; because there is already a Research station at Panniyur near Taliparamba.

FAMILY PLANNING CENTRES IN C.D. AND N.E.S. BLOCKS

*64. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present number of family planning centres working in the Community Project Areas and National Extension Service Blocks; and

(b) what amount has been allotted for this work for the year 1957-58?