

adjoining States like U.P., Bombay, PEPSU and Saurashtra.

We have given in 1954-55 a subsidy of Rs. 60,000 to the Bombay Government. The PEPSU Government gets Rs. 2,40,000. U.P. has been given a subsidy of Rs. 1,59,000.

PROF. G. RANGA: Are any steps being taken to see that the local Government does not destroy the forests that are already there, as has been stated by one hon. Member yesterday?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: That is in fact one of the reasons this desert is marching towards Delhi. The forests have been reclaimed and the land given over for cultivation purposes, and since Rajasthan gets rains only once in three years, soil erosion naturally takes place. But the Government are advising the State Government against this, and the State Government is co-operating with us in this direction.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: The Government have decided to set up a Forestry Commission that will lay down the policy to be pursued and also advise the State Governments on the subject.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Whatever be the amount which has been sanctioned and whatever the work be that is being done, may I know what have been the specific results of these measures?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Satisfactory work is being done in that direction.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Have any steps been taken to see that goats do not enter these forests and that there will be no goats in Rajasthan?

(No reply.)

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the Government satisfied on scientific data that Rajasthan is not a desert but a neglected area and that certain steps should be taken which will turn

Rajasthan into a rich pasture land and cultivable land? Have the Government come to any conclusion on that or not?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: That is the advice that we have been given by experts and we are acting on it.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know whether any co-ordinated effort is being made? I understand that a few lakhs of rupees have been sanctioned to Uttar Pradesh, but may I know whether the Central Government has any co-ordinated scheme and whether it feels that it is responsible for seeing through this programme?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: There is the Soil Conservation Board which will co-ordinate the activities in the different States.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Soil conservation is different from this, is it not?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: This is one of its activities.

TERMINAL TAX OR PILGRIM TAX ON PASSENGERS

*93. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to my Unstarred Question No. 420 answered on the 20th December, 1955, and state whether any part of the pilgrim tax and terminal tax charged from passengers is retained by the Railways as collection charges; if so, how much?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): Yes, a small percentage of the total tax collections is retained by Railways as the cost of collection. During 1954-55, a sum of Rs. 1,29,669 was retained by Railways as collection charges.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What is the percentage, may I know?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is 3 per cent.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know whether there is any difference between pilgrim tax and terminal tax and, if so, what is the difference?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: There is no difference.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Why are they called differently then?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They have been called so.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know for what purposes these amounts will be utilised?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: These are generally handed over to the municipalities concerned, and they spend these amounts on the conveniences that they have to provide for rush of pilgrims.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Is it uniform throughout India?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It varies. It is not uniform.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Is it not levied in some places of pilgrims?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I only said that it was not uniformly levied.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: At what special pilgrim centres is this levied? Or is it restricted only to religious places of a certain religion only?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It applies to all places of religious importance relating to all religions. I have got a long list which was supplied to Mr. Valiulla in answer to another question.

EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE FUND

*94. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected so far under the scheme of the Employees'

State Insurance Fund in the year 1954-55; and

(b) the manner in which this amount was spent during that year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) and (b). A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Contributions received in Employees' State Insurance Fund and purposes for which they were spent during the year 1954-55.

Contributions received—		Rs.
Employers' share	.	1,87,89,480
Employees' share	.	97,26,312
Income from miscellaneous sources	.	11,97,574
Grant-in-aid from Central Government	.	9,29,249
TOTAL	.	3,06,42,615

Expenditure—

Medical benefit	.	21,29,773
Sickness benefit	.	17,13,303
Maternity benefit	.	6,925
Disablement benefit	.	7,59,125
Dependents' benefit	.	1,05,000
Other benefits	.	5,239
Administrative expenses	.	34,73,578
TOTAL	.	81,92,943

SHRI M. VALIULLA: In the statement, the income from miscellaneous sources is given as Rs. 11,97,574. May I know what items are included in these miscellaneous sources?

SHRI ABID ALI: The interest on investment and the rent of the buildings of the Corporation which have been let out.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: According to the statement, the income is about Rs. 3 crores, and the expenditure is about Rs. 81 lakhs apart from the opening balance of that year. May I know to what use the balance of the amount has been put?