

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: When was this last accident on the Western Railway?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: On the 14th September 1954.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Has that case been investigated also and has the report of the same been submitted?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, it was found that it was due to an internal flaw in the metal, the trailing axle of engine broke. This has been sent for examination by the chemist and the metallurgist whose reports are awaited.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know from which country these locomotives were imported on which this accident has taken place?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: With reference to the prior accident, the information is that it was imported from the United States of America, in 1949. With reference to the other engine, I do not have the information.

*477. [For answer, vide cols. 3688-89 infra.]

COLOURING OF VANASPATI

*478. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reason why Vanaspati is not coloured; and

(b) whether experiments to colour Vanaspati are still being carried on; if so, where and since when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) Because no suitable colour has so far been found.

(b) Experiments to find out a suitable colour for colouring vanaspati are still being continued at the following Research Institutes:—

1. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi.
2. Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar.

3. Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Kanpur.

The experiments are being carried out for the last several years. The exact date when these experiments were started is not available.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What do you mean by "suitable colouring" matter?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wait, let Shrimati Violet Alva complete her questions.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: May I know why it is so difficult to get a suitable colouring substance when we are eating colours every day in the sherbat that we drink, the food we eat and the sweets? Why is it so difficult to colour Vanaspati?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: It is very difficult to find out a colouring substance to colour vanaspati, for it is not like colouring sweetmeats and such other things. Here we want the colouring substance to satisfy certain conditions. Once it has been mixed with vanaspati and if we keep it for some time, it should not disappear as it does in many cases. All the scientists are not able to find out a colouring substance which satisfies all these conditions.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Is it not a fact that the vanaspati manufacturers, including the largest of them—Lever Brothers—are against the colouring of vanaspati because at least 50 per cent. of the product is used for adulteration of pure ghee?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: We are not worried about the vanaspati manufacturers; we are worried about not being able to find out a suitable colouring substance. The research institutes and the scientists are trying to find out a suitable material, but they are not able to find it.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Is it not amazing that when the scientists are going to produce atom bombs, they are still not able to find out a colouring matter for colouring vanaspati?

(No reply.)

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: May I know, Sir, whether the Food Research Institute at Mysore has been consulted on this matter?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: All these research institutes have been consulted. They were the institutes in charge of finding out a suitable colouring matter.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: It is a Government of India's organisation concerned with food research and so the Government will be well advised to consult it.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: If it has not yet been done by the Ministry I am prepared to do so immediately.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Does the hon. Deputy Minister know that in America they have found out a colour for this which is fast?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Not to our knowledge. Throughout Europe and other places, they are not colouring vanaspati; it is only in this country that this move has come.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: May I know why a veterinary institute has been entrusted with this research? And secondly, the hon. Deputy Minister said that the colour that was added to vanaspati did not last long enough. May I know how long it lasted?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: We have entrusted this to a veterinary research centre because after being coloured, the vanaspati has got to be tried on living creatures like rats, to see whether the substance added is poisonous or non-poisonous. Vanaspati has to be an edible thing, we have to consume it even after the colouring. So they try it on rats and at the veterinary institute there are rats.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not give more information than is necessary, otherwise Shrimati Rukmini Arun-

dale will start on the humanitarian cause.

SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL: May I know if the Government are aware of the researches recently made at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun by the head of the Chemistry Department as a result of which they have been able to find out a suitable material, as suitable as chlorophyll, for colouring vanaspati?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Carotene oil, concentrated, has been suggested, all these researches are there and they find out some colouring matter, and they are tried, but we have not been able to come to a final conclusion. Only last week, my Ministry convened a meeting of the experts and scientists and they expressed inability to find out a suitable colouring matter. And my Minister requested them at the meeting to continue these efforts to find out a colouring matter.

SHRI M. P. N. SINHA: May I know, Sir, how long these experiments have been going on?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: For several years. As for the exact date of commencement of these experiments, I have no information.

SHRI M. P. N. SINHA: Five years or ten years? And have Government advertised in the papers that they are seeking a colouring matter which would be permanent, for the purpose of colouring vanaspati? Have they done that? If not, why have they not done so?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: I could not quite follow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If your research institutes have found nothing suitable, did you advertise in the papers and ask private firms or private individuals whether they were prepared to give you some kind of suitable colouring material, that is the question.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Every effort is being made to find out a suitable colouring matter.

SHRI ABID ALI: This discussion would serve the purpose of advertisement.

SHRI M. P. N. SINHA: But the question is: whether they have advertised it in the papers for the information of private firms and individuals and chemists. If not, why not?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Sir, as I said, every effort is being made in this direction, and if the hon. Member wants more exact information, I am prepared to give it, if sufficient notice is given.

SHRI M. P. N. SINHA: Why more notice?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Because I have to tell the hon. Member whether it was advertised and

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI GULSHER AHMED: Is it not a fact, that most of the scientists hold the view that vanaspati is as good as ghee?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: It is a controversial thing, Sir; even the Prime Minister said that it is not injurious to health.

(Interruptions.)

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Sir, one important question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please.

*479. [For answer vide cols. 3689-90 infra.]

INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF OBSERVATIONS ON EARTH AND ITS ATMOSPHERE

†*249. SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

†Postponed from the 16th March 1955.

(a) whether India has participated in the international survey of mass observations of meteorological phenomena on earth and its atmosphere; and

(b) if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

In the world-wide observational programme undertaken in the International Polar Year 1932-33, the main emphasis was on extensive and simultaneous aerological data over the whole world. Other observations arranged were surface meteorological and geophysical observations. Nearly 150 days during the whole period were fixed before-hand for world-wide observations. The observations carried out in India consisted of observations of pressure, temperature and humidity in the upper air, upper winds up to greatest possible heights, clouds and their movements, special surface meteorological observations, observations of terrestrial magnetism and electric potential gradient. The India Meteorological Department was entrusted with the work of collecting aerological data from the countries in this part of the world. These data were received and transmitted to the President of the International Commission for exploration of the upper air.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Will India participate in the coming observations in 1957-58?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: We will.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Have any arrangements been made in pursuance of the decision to participate in these observations?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is too early to make arrangements. Arrangements will be made in due course.