

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) The old practice of allowing black-oil tank wagons on their return trip to be back-loaded with vegetable oil, as and when this was found convenient, was discontinued from September 1948 in respect of edible vegetable oil and from October 1953 in respect of non-edible vegetable oil. The arrangement of temporary transfers of tank wagons from the pool for petroleum oils and lubricants to that for vegetable oil, whenever this is found feasible, has, however, continued all along.

(b) Yes.

(c) The practice of allowing back-loading of black-oil tank wagons with vegetable oil, which had been discontinued, has since been restored until the availability of vegetable oil tank wagons improves sufficiently to meet the requirements of the vegetable oil trade reasonably well.

SHRI L. H. DOSHI: Are there any conditions applied for the restoration of these oil tank wagons?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No conditions, Sir. I may also inform the hon. Member that 50 additional wagons have been allotted for vegetable oil traffic.

SHRI O. SOBHANI: At whose instance was this practice discontinued in September and October?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, the Ministries of Food and Agriculture and also the Ministry of Health objected to this practice and they said that it was injurious to health when vegetable oil was loaded in these tanks. So they advised us to discontinue this practice.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: What about the vegetable oil already mixed with the mineral oil?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time is up. Question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INCREASE IN THE PRODUCE OF POTATO UNDER THE G.M.F. SCHEME

***306. SHRI V. M. SURENDRA RAM:** Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the increased quantity of potato produced as a result of the "Grow More Food" Scheme in Madras State in the year 1952-53?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): No scheme for the increased production of potatoes under the Grow More Food Programme was submitted by the Madras Government during 1952-53 and as such no financial assistance on this account was granted to the State Government.

OIL TANK WAGONS

***325. SHRI L. H. DOSHI:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil tank wagons in the different zones of the Indian Railways;

(b) how many of these wagons are used for the transport of (i) mineral oils, and (ii) vegetable oils;

(c) whether it is a fact that the tank wagons allotted for the transport of vegetable oils are inadequate to meet the demand; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take to meet the shortage?