

TRUCKS PURCHASED BY THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE C.T.O.

277. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether eight trucks were purchased by the Chairman of the Central Tractor Organisation from the United States of America when he went there on deputation; and

(b) whether it is a fact that four of those trucks were sold to Hirakud Project, and the rest are lying idle even without being assembled; and if so, why?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a) In accordance with instructions given to him by Government, the then Chairman of the Organisation during his deputation to U.S.A. in 1951 placed an indent for eight trucks on the India Supply Mission, Washington. Actual orders on the suppliers were then placed by the Supply Mission after inviting tenders

(b) Four of the trucks were sold to the Hirakud Dam Project on payment of full cost. The remaining 4 trucks have been unpacked and assembled, and are being kept in store. They may be utilised by the C.T.O. unless it is found possible to sell them at a reasonable price.

DELHI MAIL MOTOR SERVICE

278. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the cost per mile for running the Delhi Mail Motor Service when it was managed by contractors prior to the 15th December, 1947; and

(b) what is the cost per mile for running the service now?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) The cost for running the Delhi Mail Motor Service prior to 15th December 1947 was annas -/10/- per mile.

(b) The cost of running the Delhi Mail Motor Service was annas -/11/5 per mile during 1952-53.

STEPS TO GROW IMPORTED VARIETY OF
TOBACCO

279. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by Government to grow that variety of tobacco in India which is imported from abroad unmanufactured; and

(b) if so, the measures taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a) Yes, but the soil and climatic conditions in India prevent production of tobacco up to the quality imported from abroad.

(b) The following are the measures taken in this direction:—

- (i) Research work to effect improvement in the quality of Flue-cured Virginia tobacco is going on at the Indian Central Tobacco Committee's Research Station at Rajahmundry.
- (ii) A main research station for research on cigar and cheroot tobacco has been established at Veda sandur.
- (iii) Another research station has been recently established in Dinhata (West Bengal) for research on wrapper tobacco.
- (iv) A scheme for exploring the possibility of growing Jaffna tobacco in Travancore State has recently been prepared by the Indian Central Tobacco