

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have no count of undetected ones.

(MALPRACTICES IN TEZPUR-BALIPARA SECTION OF THE NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

\*310. SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that passenger earnings of the Tezpur-Balipara section of the North Eastern Railway have decreased considerably since it was taken over by the Railway Board; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of ticket-checkers on this line is insufficient?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) While there have been fluctuations in traffic, it is not possible to say whether there has been a decrease or not in passenger earnings in this case.

(b) This is not our information; but the Hon'ble Member is aware that a Committee is examining travel conditions on the Assam section of the North Eastern Railway and can be expected to report on this particular matter also.

SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Is it a fact that for more than a month tickets were not issued in that section?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We do not have any such information.

SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Will inquiries be made?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Certainly, we shall make enquiries.

ASSISTANCE FROM F.A.O. EXPERTS

\*311. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and particulars of the Food and Agriculture Organisation experts assisting the Ministry;

(b) the kind of work in which they are assisting; and

(c) what are the recommendations or suggestions made by them for the improvement of agriculture and animal husbandry in the country?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 140.]

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Are these experts invited by the Government of India or are they sent under the auspices of any other organisation?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Whenever we feel that any expert is necessary we try to find out and if a proper person is found, we invite him. Sometimes for research work and other things, it is pointed out that some experts are available. If we decide to take advantage of them, we do.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Are they invited on a contract basis with lump sum grants as their remuneration or are they given salaries?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: In most of these cases we obtain them from the various international agencies and States and we are hardly ever required to pay any salary.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know the minimum and maximum period of their stay here?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It varies between six months to about two years. In most cases it is about a year.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: The first three experts are experts in artificial insemination. Were three experts required to work in this field?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We have undertaken this activity only recently and as my hon. friend knows, the cattle population in India is so large

and our deficiency of good cattle so big that three experts were considered necessary.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Where are these experts working? In the same place, or are they distributed?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I should like to have notice. In all probability they are distributed.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Have these experts taken up the work of training Indians in the work?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Side by side they do both.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is any effort made to place these people under someone or other of the senior officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and are they expected to submit their Reports at the end of their stay here after their experiments or investigations?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I can assure my hon. friend, Sir, that every possible care is taken to derive the utmost possible benefit from them and they are also subject to discipline of working under the head of the Institute, or the head of the Department or Section—wherever they are working.

#### PILOTAGE RATE SCHEDULE FOR THE HOOGHLY PILOTAGE SERVICE

•312. SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the pilotage rate schedule for the Hooghly Pilotage Service; and

(b) how the rate compares with the rates charged at other world ports for river pilotage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table. [See Appendix IV, An-nexure No. 141.]

(b) Information regarding the rate? charged at other world ports is not readily available and even if collected will not afford any basis for useful comparison in view of the varying distances involved and the fact that from the point of view of pilotage the Hooghly presents problems and difficulties which do not exist elsewhere and which necessitate the employment of highly skilled pilots with long experience of navigation under very tricky local conditions.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: In view of the reason that the hon. Minister has given in answer to part (b) and also in view of the fact that the Pilotage Department of the Calcutta Port Commissioners is a very heavily losing Department according to their own report, do the Government consider that a review of this schedule would be desirable?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The Calcutta Port Commissioners are having this question under review.

#### PAYMENT OF SUGAR-CANE PRICES

\*314. SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount payable by the Sugar factories in India to the cane-growers for the cane supplied by them\* to the mills for the crushing season 1951-52; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to see that the growers are paid their dues by the mills?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH) : (a) Out of the total cane price of 64 crores of rupees, about 70 lakhs of rupees still remains, to be paid.

(b) (i) Additional quantities of sugar were released to sugar factories to enable them to clear arrears of cane price.

(ii) Sugar factories were allowed to pay price of cane in terms of sugar