

(b) A statement indicating the terms of agreement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 99].

Ganga-Brahmaputra Inland Water Transport

*1204. Shri Ghosal: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Joint Steamer Companies' (M/s. R.S.N. and Company Ltd. and I.G.N. & Railway Company Ltd.) have got the monopoly in inland water transport business from Calcutta to Assam in the Ganga-Brahmaputra route;

(b) if so, whether they bear any part of the expenses incurred in dredging the said rivers; and

(c) if so, what is the amount per year?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Post Offices in Orissa

*1205. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Post Offices of all categories in the Orissa Circle are housed in the rented buildings;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to acquire sites for the construction of buildings for the Post Offices in all the districts under this circle;

(d) whether proposal to construct quarters for the staff working in this circle is under contemplation; and

(e) if so, with what results?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Post Offices in Orissa are located in rented and

Departmental buildings as in other parts of the country.

(b) Usually for reasons of economy rented premises are used. Departmental construction is resorted to when suitable premises on reasonable rents are not available.

(c) Yes. There are proposals for acquiring land for post offices at District Headquarter stations where there are no suitable rented or Departmental buildings available to house such offices.

(d) Yes.

(e) More than 100 units of quarters have been constructed at various places in Orissa Circle since the beginning of the First Five Year Plan. More quarters are proposed to be constructed in the Circle during the Second Five Year Plan subject to the availability of sites.

Navigation in the Estuaries of Godavary and Krishna Rivers

*1207. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investigation was made as to the navigability of the estuaries of Godavary and Krishna Rivers in Andhra for coastal steamers; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No such investigation has been carried out by the Central Water and Power Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

Bombay Suburban Trains

*796. Shri Assar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the local suburban trains between Bombay and Kalyan run at irregular intervals and late;