

(c) what are those lines where these coaches have been put?

The Deputy-Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Six broad gauge and six metre gauge coaches have been built and two more M. G. coaches are under construction.

(b) Further construction of such coaches will depend on the success of this experiment.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 16].

Counterfeit Postal Stamps and Covers

*440. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a printing press for printing counterfeit stamps and postal covers has recently been unearthed in Calcutta;

(b) if so, the value of counterfeit stamps and postal covers found with that press; and

(c) whether any arrest has been made in that regard?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes

(b) and (c) The matter is under police investigation.

Congestion in Bombay Port.

*441 { Shri Naushir Bharucha:
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Shri Assar:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of grave congestion in Bombay Port resulting in a number of ships being unable to find berths;

(b) the reasons for this unprecedented congestion and how far wagon shortage accounts for it;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the last week of June, 1957, over 8,000 tons of imported fertilisers were lying in docks uncleared, while agriculturists, with the onset of monsoon, are clamouring for fertilisers;

(d) the quantity of imported food-grains lying uncleared as on 30th June, 1957;

(e) whether Government have taken any special steps to clear this congestion and if so, what; and

(f) what steps are proposed to be taken to prevent recurrence of such congestion, and whether Port Trust has been asked to take any steps in this direction?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government are aware of the situation in Bombay Port

(b) An abnormal increase in the number of ships calling at the port and in the quantity of cargo carried by each ship, monsoon conditions and a nine-day strike of a section of stevedore workers are the main reasons for the present congestion. The congestion is not attributable to wagon shortage.

(c) No, Sir. On the 30th June, the balance of fertilizers lying uncleared was only 1,361 tons.

(d) 4,116 tons.

(e) and (f) More mechanical equipment has been provided for handling cargo. The administrative and operational arrangements have been geared up. Some ships carrying food-grains and iron and steel cargoes have been diverted to less congested ports. Steps have also been taken to ensure that imports on Government account are planned in advance in the light of the traffic position at the ports.

Shoranur-Cochin Railway Line

*442. Shri Kadiyan: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to double the Shoranur-Cochin Railway line; and

(b) whether the Cochin Port Administration has recommended the doubling of the above-line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawas Khan): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

Housing Colony for P. & T. Workers

*444. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build a Housing Colony for the Posts and Telegraphs workers in Madurai; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). No scheme has been sanctioned so far. A proposal to provide some quarters in the Telegraph Office compound will be taken up during 1958-59.

Bombay Telephone Service

*445. Shri Naushir Bharucha: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Telephone service in Bombay City has considerably deteriorated since the introduction of 6-digit numbers;

(b) whether Government are aware that faults remain unattended for days together in spite of repeated complaints;

(c) the reasons for such deterioration; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to remedy the defects?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The service has not deteriorated. Average number of faults per 100 connections per month before conversion to 6 digits was 59 and after conversion it is 37.

(b) The faults receive prompt attention. Average duration per fault

before conversion to 6 digits was 4.9 hours and after conversion it is 3.6 hours.

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

Railway Anti-Corruption Organisation.

301. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the work done during 1956-57 by the Anti-Corruption Organisation of the Central Railway, Division-wise?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawas Khan): A statement is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 17.]

Railway Claims Cases.

302. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old claim cases pending settlement on the Central Railway on the 1st April, 1956;

(b) the number of new claims received on the same Railway during 1956-57, and

(c) the number of claims settled by the 31st March, 1957?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawas Khan): (a) 8,933.

(b) *90,690 (including 7637 cases re-opened)

(c) *90,004 (including re-opened cases).

*Provisional Figures, as audited figures are not yet available.

Payment of Railway Claims

303. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of claims so far paid by the Railway department to traders in the Secunderabad Division of the Central Railway from 1955 for the loss of their goods; and

(b) the total number of claims at present under consideration?