

(e) General instructions already exist in the matter. Also, the reports of the enquiries made by the Railway officers and by the Inspector of Explosives concerned are under examination and further action, as necessary, will be taken.

Postal Savings Bank Accounts

*596. **Fandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangement has been made for villagers to open Savings Bank Accounts in Village Post Offices manned by Extra Departmental Staff;

(b) if so, whether the response of the people is encouraging; and

(c) the approximate number of accounts opened in Bihar so far?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Arrangements already exist.

(b) Fairly encouraging.

(c) 4,32,949 upto the close of the financial year 1956-57.

Air Service to Assam

*599. **Shri Basumatari:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to provide cheaper than existing IAC Air Transport for Assam-Manipur and Tripura; and

(b) the steps taken to establish or assist to establish an airline in and for the Assam area?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) It is not economically feasible to provide air transport for Assam, Manipur and Tripura at rates substantially different from those charged by the Indian Airlines Corporation.

(b) The question does not arise as Indian Airlines Corporation is operating in the area under the terms of the Air Corporations Act, 1953.

Publicity by Indian Airlines Corporation

*606. **Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the amount spent by the Indian Airlines Corporation during each of the last two years on advertisements?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

Madras-Rangoon Steamer Service

*607. **Shri V. Raju:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the stoppage of the ship service from Madras to Rangoon via Visakhapatnam; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to resume this service?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 120].

Consolidation of Land Holdings

*608. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been given to the State Governments relating to common grazing grounds in the villages where consolidation of land holdings is going on; and

(b) if so, with what effect?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Attention of the State Governments has been drawn to the importance of reserving lands for objects of common utility and community purposes during consolidation proceedings. Provisions of Punjab and U.P. provide for reservation for grazing grounds according to local needs.