

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):

(a) So far as the cadres of Inspectors of Post Offices and R.M.S. are concerned, the shortfall is negligible in the case of Scheduled Castes, but appreciable in the case of Scheduled Tribes. In respect of Telegraph Masters' cadre, in the two examinations held so far there has been appreciable shortfall in the number of successful Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates. This was due largely to non-availability of any candidates to take the examinations in many of the Circles. The only candidate of the Scheduled Tribe who had appeared in the examination has been provided. It has, however, now been decided that promotions to the cadre of Telegraph Masters should be made on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness and the reservation orders would therefore, in future, not apply.

(b) No.

Price Policy for Foodgrains

*277. { Shri Chuni Lal:
Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Committee on Community Development, the policy-making body of the Community Development Ministry, has urged that a price policy for food-grains should be evolved and implemented early; and

(b) by what time the price policy is going to be implemented?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration. The Government is keeping a watch over food prices and will, whenever necessary, take appropriate measures to maintain prices at reasonable levels keeping in view the interests of both the producers and consumers.

Drugs

*278. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of foreign and Indian companies supply the drug market with injectibles which do not possess the advertised potency and are sometimes virtually useless;

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to the report that a certain foreign company recently supplied to druggist shops Triple Antigen which was already date-expired; and

(c) what steps are being taken about such malpractices?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No.

(b) No such information is available.

(c) The State Drugs Control Authorities are particularly vigilant about the quality of injectible products and their samples are frequently checked.

Rate of Electricity from Hirakud

*279. **Dr. Samantsinhar:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint has been received from the Orissa State Government regarding loss sustained by them due to fixation of comparatively cheaper rate of electricity supplied from Hirakud to the Aluminium company there;

(b) what is the rate and when it was fixed and the total amount of the power consumed by the company in the first year of its production and now, per annum; and

(c) whether the State Government was consulted before fixation of the rate and what was their opinion?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The rate was fixed at Rs. 120/- per kW year for power supplied up to 25,000 kW for the first ten years. This rate will be raised to Rs. 135/- per kW year after the initial ten years. The balance of 1,500 kW is being supplied at Rs. 135/- per kW year. These rates were fixed in 1957.

215.514 million kwh of power was purchased by the Company in the first year of its production and during 1960-61, the quantum of power purchased, was 220.401 million kwh.

(c) These rates were agreed to by the Government of Orissa in the agreement entered into by them with the Company.

Joint Regional Shipping and Airline Services in South East Asia

***280. Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the Association of South East Asia ended in the last week of October, 1961 at Kuala Lumpur after considering the economic feasibility of establishing joint regional shipping and airline services and feasibility of regional arrangements including the formation of an Association of South East Asia Shipping line and airline; and

(b) if so, how it is going to affect the Indian airlines and shipping lines?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). No information is available with Government.

Bridge at Dohright on National Highway No. 29

***281. Shri Kalika Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed bridge at Dohright on National Highway No. 29 has been abandoned;

(b) whether any amount had been spent on preliminary survey of the Dohright bridge;

(c) if so, the amount and the result of the preliminary survey; and

(d) whether the scheme of providing Pontoon bridge has also been abandoned?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir. The construction of the proposed bridge at Dohright has been deferred to the Fourth Plan due to paucity of funds.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Trial borings were completed at the cost of about Rs. 5,000/- in July 1958. Further borings would be taken up at the locations of the piers at the time of the execution of the bridge work, but the results of the borings already taken will be taken into consideration.

(d) No, Sir. The scheme is provided in the 3rd five-year plan. An estimate amounting to Rs. 5.68 lakhs, received from the State Government, is under examination.

Tourism in Darjeeling

***282. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how much money has been allocated to improve tourism in Darjeeling, West Bengal;

(b) whether the Tourist Bureau is being taken over by State Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that housing accommodation and water and electricity is in short supply there;

(d) what steps are being taken both short and long term, to meet these and to develop tourism at a faster rate;

(e) whether there is a plan to build an elaborate tourist lodge to suit all pockets; and

(f) if so, what is the sum allotted for this and when the work will start?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The amount allocated for Darjeeling in Third Five