

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to bring down prices of essential food commodities in Tripura;

(d) whether Government are aware that ration cards are not being issued to the rural people, particularly to the hill tribes, and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Prices in Tripura are no doubt high, but are not higher than those in some centres of Assam, West Bengal and Bihar

(b) No Sir

(c) Rice which is the staple food in Tripura is being issued through fair price shops in retail at Rs 18/- per maund. Wheat is also being issued at Rs 16/- per maund

(d) Ration cards are being issued to both urban and rural people including the tribal people wherever necessary

(e) Does not arise

Theft in Parcel Office, Cuttack

*802. Shri B. C. Mullick: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a packet consisting of about two hundred copies of examination papers held under the Secondary Board of Education, Orissa was stolen from inside the Parcel Office of the Cuttack Railway Station, Orissa,

(b) whether any investigation has been made by the Railway authorities and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c) The Secretary, Board of Secondary Education, Orissa sent a telegram on 13-5-1957 about the non-receipt of a consignment containing Examination Papers despatched from Sambalpur to Cuttack on 6-5-1957. The said officer informed the Railway again on 16-5-1957 that the consignment had

since been received. The delay in delivery is under investigation.

Manufacture of Electric Trains

*803. Shri Gajendra Prasad Shaha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what progress has been made about the proposal to start manufacture of electric trains for Calcutta and Bombay by the Hindustan Aircraft (Private) Ltd?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): The Hindustan Aircraft (P) Ltd, are negotiating with their prospective collaborators Messrs Hitachi Ltd, Japan and M A N, West Germany for the manufacture of mechanical parts of Electric Multiple Unit in progressive stages as a long term measure. The Project Reports from these firms have not been received

Chittaranjan Loco Works

*804. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the number of locomotives manufactured in Chittaranjan during the year 1956-57, and

(b) whether the cost of production has come down?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) 156

(b) Yes

Post and Telegraph Facilities in Rajasthan

*805 Shri J. R. Mehta: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) how many villages with a population of 2,000 or above are still without Post Office facilities in Rajasthan, and how many places with a population of 5,000 or above are without Telegraph facilities, and

(b) whether any time schedule has been worked out in regard to the provision of these facilities?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) (i) Without Post Offices—Two

(ii) Without Telegraph offices. —Seven

(b) (i) The Post Offices at the two places could not be opened as the loss would exceed Rs. 1,000 on each, because of long runner's lines involved. It is however under consideration to open these Post Offices with Mail Motor Services and negotiations with contractors in regard to the subsidy payable are in progress. Post Offices will be opened if inclusive of the subsidy the loss on each post office is within Rs 1,000 P A.

(ii) Telegraph facilities have been sanctioned for two of the places, viz, Guhala and Rampur and will be opened as soon as the new lines are erected. Provision for the remaining five places has not been found to be feasible.

Road Bridge over Jamuna

*506. **Shri Sumat Prasad:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a road bridge across the Jamuna to facilitate traffic between the Punjab and the Western UP;

(b) if so, how long will it take to materialise and the place where the bridge is likely to be constructed; and

(c) what is the estimated cost of its construction and the proportion in which the States concerned are to contribute towards it?

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

(b) The Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab have agreed to the proposal. The site for the proposed bridge has to be decided upon by them after which the detailed

plans and estimate will be sanctioned and the work taken up.

(c) The bridge is roughly estimated to cost Rs 45 lakhs which will be shared equally by the Governments of India, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

Coal Loading Plant

*507. { **Shri Hem Barua:**
Shri Raghunath Singh:

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

(a) whether Government have installed a Mechanical Coal Loading Plant at Calcutta port, and

(b) if so, what is its capacity per hour?

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

(b) The optimum capacity of the plant is 500 tons per hour but, under normal working conditions, it is likely to load only 375 tons per hour.

Commemoration Stamps

*508. **Shri Kumaran:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised details regarding the special issue of stamps to mark the 100th anniversary of India's First Freedom Struggle, and

(b) if so, whether Government have had consultations with the centenary celebration committees in the States before finalising details of issue of such stamps?

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

(b) The details were finalised in consultation with the Central National Committee which was concerned with the All India Programme of celebrations for the 1857 Centenary as also the Stamp Advisory Committee specially appointed for the purpose.