

## MOBILE POST OFFICES IN PUNJAB

\*1771. Prof. D. C. Sharma: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether mobile post offices are working in any towns of the Punjab?

(b) If not, is there any proposal to start mobile post office in any towns in that State?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) No; the policy of Government hitherto was to introduce Mobile Post Offices in towns with a population of more than five lakhs. There is no such town in the Punjab. The question whether the Mobile Post Office service should be extended, or continued where it exists, is under examination.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the population of Amritsar is in the neighbourhood of 5 lakhs?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The population is a fact.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: Is it not necessary that mobile post offices should be made use of more for rural areas than for urban areas?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have just now said that the whole question whether mobile post offices should be extended to rural areas or town areas, or whether it should be continued at all where it exists is under examination.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know how many of the towns having more than five lakhs population have already got mobile post offices?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Bombay, Ahmedabad, Poona, Calcutta and Hyderabad.

## TOURIST HOME AT MAHABALIPURAM

\*1772. Shri N. P. Damodaran: (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government have under consideration a proposal to build a tourist home at Mahabalipuram and to open a tourist centre in South India?

(b) If so, when will the tourist home be built and where will the tourist centre be opened?

(c) What will be the nature and purpose of the tourist centre?

(d) Will the cost of construction of the home and the expenses for the said centre be borne by the Central Government or by the State Governments?

(e) Is any place in Kerala, including Travancore-Cochin and Malabar, being considered for locating the tourist centre?

(f) Which are the places in South India likely to be developed into tourist centres for the benefit of Indian and foreign tourists?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (d). Mahabalipuram is a famous tourist centre in the South. Accommodation facilities available there are however not adequate, and the State Government have now prepared plans for the construction of a Rest House at a cost of Rs. 1.38 lakhs. The State Government have suggested that the Government of India should share the cost of this Rest House. The question is under consideration.

(e) and (f). In a country of India's size with a wealth of archaeological monuments the number of places of tourist interest is not inconsiderable. Development of a particular place as a tourist centre depends upon the availability of accommodation and its accessibility. The question of development of a particular tourist centre is primarily for the consideration of the State Government concerned.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to develop Cape Comorin or the Periyar Lake in Travancore-Cochin as a tourist centre?

Shri Alagesan: As I said it is primarily for the State Government concerned. We are not aware of any such proposal. Perhaps the State Government may be having it under consideration.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, whether it is under the consideration of Government to make a place like Edapalayam which was visited by the hon. the Prime Minister recently a tourist centre by providing sufficient accommodation there?

Shri Alagesan: I have already replied it is for the State Government to consider. If the State Government considers that it can be developed as a tourist centre certainly it can be done.

## FISKA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

\*1773. Shri N. P. Damodaran: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a number of roads constructed under the Fiska Development Scheme in Madras are unable to be used as roads for want of level-