

Shri Raj Bahadur: The whole question is under examination. We have got to see whether we can introduce this in the rural areas.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister said that the whole question is under consideration. May I know whether, after such consideration, this will be extended wholly to all the towns in the same line?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is premature.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nayar: Will Government consider the system of mobile post offices as being useful to the public at large?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There are always adequate facilities for the public in the larger towns. We propose to examine it for rural areas.

GOODS BOOKING FROM CALCUTTA TO MANIPUR

*491. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the latter part of the answer to starred question No. 866 regarding prices of goods in Manipur asked on the 2nd December, 1952 and state whether it is a fact that no railway booking is allowed for movement of small consignments by goods trains from Calcutta to Manipur Road?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): No. Goods traffic in 'smalls' is being booked for movement by rail from Calcutta to Manipur Road.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know whether goods coming by Rail from Calcutta to Imphal take two to six months to reach Imphal, and if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the transport in this line?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the first part of the question accepted?

Shri Alagesan: It is not, Sir.

Shri A. C. Guha: What is the usual transport for goods from Calcutta or any part in this side of India to Imphal? What is the usual time taken for such transport?

Shri Alagesan: The hon. Member knows that there is an all rail route and a steamer-rail route and an all river route.

Shri A. C. Guha: I heard the hon. Minister to say something like an all river route.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Partly steamer and partly train.

Shri K. K. Basu: And partly immigration.

Shri A. C. Guha: What is the usual period that a parcel from Calcutta....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not prepared to allow any argument.

Shri A. C. Guha: Not an argument, Sir. I want to know the usual period taken from Calcutta.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The usual period relates to each particular route and there can be an average for each route that is taken: not with respect to all the routes.

Shri Sarmah: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state what is the usual time which goods take by Rail from Calcutta to reach the Railway station nearest to Imphal?

Shri Alagesan: I should like to have notice.

Shri Sarmah: May I know then what is the good of saying 'No' to Mr. L. J. Singh's question and that it does not take six months. He should have some basis to say how long it takes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: To give the exact time, he wants notice. Next question.

AIR FREIGHT FROM CALCUTTA TO IMPHAL

*492. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what is the actual air freight charge per pound from Calcutta to Imphal?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The approved air freight rate for Calcutta-Imphal is Re. 0-7-6 per lb.

Shri L. J. Singh: Is it true that the freight charge from Calcutta to Imphal is varying from 0-5-6 to 0-7-6 and if so what are the reasons?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have quoted the present rate. As a matter of fact, the Air Transport Licensing Board have fixed the maximum and minimum.

Shri L. J. Singh: Is it a fact that freight is charged according to the sweet will of the air companies sometimes Re. 0-5-6 and sometimes 0-7-6?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is giving information.

Shri Raj Bahadur: To a certain extent the hon. Member is right. The Air Transport Licensing Board have