

## RAILWAY COACHES FROM SWITZERLAND

\*927. **Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the landed cost of passenger coaches of different classes purchased from Switzerland;

(b) the number of such coaches purchased from that country so far;

(c) the date or dates on which orders for the supply of such coaches were placed;

(d) whether orders for the supply of such coaches from Switzerland are still pending and if so, when they are expected to be received; and

(e) how the cost of an imported passenger coach compares with that of a similar coach manufactured in India?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) A statement showing full particulars of cost ex-Works, freight, customs duty, etc., for the different classes of coaches supplied by the Swiss firm is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 35].

(b) 102.

(c) December 1949—For 2 prototypes and 50 furnished coaches.

January 1951—For 50 unfurnished coaches.

(d) Supply of 50 coaches against the second order is pending. These are expected to be received in 1953-54.

(e) Coaches of a similar type of construction are not made in India as yet, but generally, the cost of building a coach in India is much lower than the cost of importing similar coaches.

## BRANCH POST OFFICES IN PUNJAB

\*928. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of branch post-offices opened in the Punjab during the years 1951-52 and 1952-53?

(b) How many branch post offices in the Punjab are self-supporting?

(c) How many branch post-offices are proposed to be opened in the Punjab during the year 1953-54?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) 327, of these 283 in 1951-52 and 44 in 1952-53.

(b) (i) Out of these 327, 26 Post Offices are self-supporting.

(ii) Taking the Punjab Circle as a whole, the position is that out of 3,251

post offices existing on the 31st December 1952, 1,437 Post Offices were self-supporting.

(c) The future policy for opening rural post offices which will be based on population to be served and the distance of the proposed Post Office from the existing post offices is going to be determined shortly. The number of Post Offices to be opened in the Punjab will depend on the application of that policy.

## लाख व्यापार

\*९२९. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** क्या लाख तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे ?

(क) गत तीन वर्षों में से प्रत्येक में भारत में उत्पादित लाख की परिमात्रा ;

(ख) इसी अवधि में अन्य देशों को निर्यात की गई लाख की परिमात्रा ;

(ग) उत्तर प्रदेश में लाख का उत्पादन भारत के समस्त उत्पादन का कितना प्रतिशत है ;

(घ) क्या मिर्जापुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) का लाख का व्यापार कम होता जा रहा है ; और यदि हाँ, तो उसके कारण ;

(ङ) लाख के व्यापार में कौन सा अन्य देश भारत का प्रतियोगी है ; तथा

(च) भारतीय लाख व्यापार को बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाहियाँ की जा रही हैं ?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 36].

(c) Percentage share of the production of lac in Uttar Pradesh to the total production in India is as under:—

Year	Percentage share
1949-50 .	0.3
1950-51 .	1.2
1951-52 .	0.8