

west of us, from where these swarms come, have set up anti-locust organisations and we ourselves have recently sent help to Iran to assist that country in destroying this source of danger. A statement showing our own arrangements for destroying locusts and hoppers is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 23.]

EW RAILWAY LINE IN BIHAR

*791. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have asked for restoration of some Railway lines in Bihar in some of their recent correspondence with the Railway Board;

(b) if so, the names of such Railway lines; and

(c) what decision Government have taken in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Yes; the State Government asked for the construction of railway lines from Forbesganj to Raghopore via Partaganj and from Supaul to Chandpipar in the districts of Saharsa and Purnea.

(c) It is neither advisable nor quite safe to construct these lines unless the Kosi river is controlled and its course is stabilised.

TRADE UNIONS

*803. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state how many trade unions have been registered in Manipur State under the Trade Union Act?

(b) Is the Trade Union Act in force in Manipur State?

(c) How many societies have been registered under the Societies Registration Act?

(d) Which are the authorities appointed for registration of Trade Unions and Societies for development of art, science and charitable institutions?

(e) Is the Shop Assistants Act in force in Manipur State?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) (a) Nil.

(b) Yes.

(c) Nil.

(d) No authority has yet been appointed for the registration of trade unions. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Joint Stock Companies is the authority appointed for the registration of Societies for development of art, science and charitable institutions.

(e) There is no Shops Assistants Act in Manipur.

RECRUITMENT OF POSTAL INSPECTORS

*804. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the next examination for the recruitment of Postal Inspectors has been postponed *sine die* in Bihar Circle;

(b) whether it is a fact that *viva voce* test, which was previously conducted, has been abolished; and

(c) if so, the reason therefor?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Ever since the test was introduced, the Service Unions and officials were agitating for its abolition on the ground that it was a source of favouritism. As the selected candidates are placed on probation before confirmation and as the probation is primarily intended to judge the same qualities for which the *viva voce* test was introduced, the test was considered redundant.

KULU VALLEY TRANSPORT COMPANY

*805. **Shri Hem Raj:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the answer given to starred question No. 990 asked on 6th December, 1952 and state whether the Special Committee of Inquiry appointed