

(b) the steps taken to develop the stations and to give wide publicity to them; and

(c) the amount of subsidy, if any, sanctioned to local Tourist Advisory Committees?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) A list of important hill stations considered suitable for development of tourist traffic is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 31.]

(b) The steps taken by Government to develop the hill stations include:—

- (i) issue of concessional return railway tickets for the season;
- (ii) publication of guide books, pamphlets, posters, etc.; and
- (iii) exhibition of films.

(c) No subsidy has been sanctioned to any Tourist Bureau or Local Advisory Committee.

SAFETY IN LADIES' COMPARTMENTS

*1204. **Shrimati Sushama Sen:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what effective steps Government contemplate for checking incidents of assaults and robbery in ladies' compartments in Railways?

(b) Are any safety devices contemplated by the Railway authorities to ensure safe travelling of ladies and children?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Steps have already been taken towards this end and include:

- (i) provision of armed escorts on important passenger trains;
- (ii) fixing of iron bars to windows and safety latches to doors of train compartments;
- (iii) positioning of ladies compartments in the centre of trains, as far as possible; and

(iv) permission to ladies travelling alone at night to take one female servant or companion in a higher class with a 3rd class ticket.

(b) It has been recently decided—

- (i) to increase the number of bars from 3 to 4 per window in all compartments; and
- (ii) to further secure the lavatory windows by welding a flat bar in the middle on the existing window bars and make the window bar assembly tamper-proof from outside by rivetting mushroom head bolts over the nuts as the coaches pass through shops for periodical overhaul repairs (P.O.H.).

PRIVATE RAILWAY SIDINGS

*1205. **Pandit Lingaraj Misra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received applications from certain Orissa Mine Owners who are willing to bear the entire cost of private assisted siding; and

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Ten applications were received during the last three months but it is not known whether the applicants are mine owners. Of these applications two have been rejected and others are still under examination.

LABOUR APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

*1206 { **Shrimati Sucheta Kripalank**
Shri Raghavachari:

Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank Employees in India have demanded the appointment of a person enjoying their confidence on the Labour Appellate Tri-

bunal of India, Bombay which is to hear appeals against the Shastri Award; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take on this matter?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Copies of resolutions adopted at meetings of bank employees, making such a demand were received from one particular union of bank employees.

(b) Government is not in a position to accept demands of this nature. The appointments are made in accordance with Section 5 of the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act, 1950, sub-section (2) which lays down the qualifications of members of the Appellate Tribunal.

TELEPHONE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

*1207. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian delegate attended the meeting of the Telephone Consultative Committee of the International Tele-Communication Union held at Lahore recently; and

(b) whether and, if so, what decisions were arrived at the Committee?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes. An Indian delegation consisting of 5 members attended the meeting of the International Telephone Consultative Sub-Committee held at Lahore from the 1st December 1953 to the 15th December 1953.

(b) The Sub-Committee took the following decisions:—

(i) It worked out a plan of a telecommunications network for connecting countries in South Asia upto and including Hong Kong and Philippines with those in the Middle East for carriage of international telephone and telegraph traffic. The plan also

provides for inter-connection between the proposed network and those already worked out for handling international traffic in the European and Mediterranean regions.

(ii) In preparing the above plan for inter-connection, it was accepted that Administrations were free—

(a) to continue the use of other forms of telecommunications such as High Frequency Radio Telephone networks and submarine cable lines (other than those forming part of the network proposed by the Sub-committee); and

(b) to decide on the proportion of traffic that should be handled by the proposed network and by other forms of telecommunications.

(iii) In view of the fact that overhead lines form the only system of telecommunications at present, on the general routes which have been proposed to be adopted, it was agreed that the realistic as well as the economical approach would be to make use of the existing over-head lines in the proposed plan.

SEROLOGICAL LABORATORY

*1208. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of the Bombay Government to set up a laboratory for the Serological work in Medicolegal cases has been accepted; and

(b) if so, whether the proposed laboratory has been set up in the Bombay State?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) After full consideration of the matter it was decided not to accept the proposal.

(b) Does not arise.