

(b) how many have been exempted and the number of Jute Mills and engineering concerns among them?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) 251.

(b) (i) Total number of factories provisionally exempted: 199

(ii) Number of Jute Mills provisionally exempted: 100

(iii) Number of engineering concerns provisionally exempted. 58

RAILWAY MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

*1346. Shri Muniswamy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent, on Medical and Health Services on the Railways separately during 1952-53; and

(b) the amount spent on the staff?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Medical Services: Rs. 147.48 lakhs.

Health Services: Rs. 171.05 lakhs.

(b) Medical Services: Rs. 104.80 lakhs.

Health Services: Rs. 149.75 lakhs.

AIR AGREEMENTS

*1347. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries with which India has revised air agreements providing for the regulation of capacity and carriage of fifth freedom traffic; and

(b) the countries with which air agreements have not yet been revised?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). I lay on the Table of the House a statement giving the requisite information. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 85.]

JUTE

*1348. Shri L. N. Mishra: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special facilities have been given to the States of West Bengal and Bihar to improve the production of jute in accordance with the recommendation of the Expert Committee on improving the quality of jute; and

(b) if so, what they are?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 86.]

UNDERGROUND TELEPHONE CABLES

*1349. { Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

(a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state by what time India's first underground trunk telephone cable system will be put into commission?

(b) Which are the places to be linked first?

(c) What would be the approximate cost for such a scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) By the end of 1954.

(b) The cables will be laid between Bombay and Thana and will serve part of the routes from Bombay to Calcutta and to various other cities working direct with Bombay.

(c) Rs. 29 lakhs.

RAILWAY AMENITIES COMMITTEE

*1350. Shri K. P. Tripathi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to the starred question No. 743 asked on the 8th December, 1953, regarding Railway Amenities Committee and state:

(a) which of the recommendations of the Railway Amenities Committee