

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). Five cases have been brought to our notice.

#### LATE RUNNING OF TRAINS

**\*758. Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trains on the North Eastern Railway are running late this year especially on the Muzufferpore-Narkatiaganj Section;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent late running of trains?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). The overall position in respect of punctuality of passenger trains on the North Eastern Railway upto July, 1954 has been satisfactory as compared with that during the corresponding period of 1953. On the Mazaffarpur-Narkatiaganj section, however, there was a deterioration in January and May 1954, due mainly to the heavy rush of traffic during the Kumbha Mela and the marriage season.

(c) Every effort is made to ensure punctual running of trains. Recently, punctuality drives have been instituted on all the Railways and these will be continued and intensified till the position improves.

#### COMET BUSES

**\*759. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently placed an order for 'Comet 90' buses with a British firm;

(b) if so, the name of the firm with whom the order has been placed; and

(c) the estimated cost involved in the purchase?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesam):** (a) to (c). The Delhi Road Transport Authority has placed an order for 140 Leyland 'Comet 90' chassis with Messrs Ashok Motors Ltd., Madras, at an estimated cost of Rs. 35.33 lakhs.

#### PRE-INDEPENDENCE STAMPS

**\*760. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to withdraw and substitute the pre-Independence stamps by the present ones; and

(b) if so, by what time the scheme is expected to be finalised and brought into execution?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). Government have since decided to withdraw all pre-Independence postage stamps with effect from the 1st October, 1954. A copy of the Press Note issued is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 51.]

#### INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION

**\*761. Shri Ajit Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any recommendations from the Indian Airlines Corporation regarding their preference for British 'Viscounts' aircrafts as against the American 'Convairs' aircrafts; and

(b) if so, on what grounds?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). At its meeting on the 17th July 1954, the Indian Airlines Corporation decided to recommend to Government that 5 Vickers Viscount aircraft should be purchased. The Corporation have preferred the Viscount to the Convair on consideration of better performance characteristics and also on the ground of its being a 4-engined aircraft incorporating the more modern turbo-prop power plant.