

METEOROLOGICAL TRAINING

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

(a) what are the reasons for discontinuing the scheme of training Pilot candidates in Meteorology at the five Regional Centres, viz., Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Delhi and Nagpur; and

(b) whether Government propose to revive the scheme?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) The scheme was discontinued because of insufficient interest and poor response on the part of the Flying Clubs and trainees to avail of the training facilities.

(b) The scheme will be revived if there is a demand for it from the Flying Clubs and from those for whose benefit it is intended and if they take advantage of it.

CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

***224. Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of tractors are lying idle in the Central Tractor Organisation for want of fast-moving spare parts;

(b) whether any arrangements have been made to rehabilitate these tractors; and

(c) if so, what are they?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) No tractor is lying idle for want of spare parts.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

चलते फिरते डाकघर

***225. श्री भागवत झा आझाद :**
क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रात की हवाई डाक के लिये और अधिक सुविधा देने के लिये अतिरिक्त

चलते फिरते डाकघरों की व्यवस्था की जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन की संख्या कितनी है ; और

(ग) वे कहां कहां चलेंगे ?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) Five.

(c) 2 at Bombay 2 at Calcutta and one additional van for Delhi.

ASSAM RAIL LINK

***226. Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any alternative arrangement has been made to carry goods to Assam from the rest of India due to breaches at several places on the Assam rail link especially when passenger-traffic has been diverted by roads on the south-bank from Pandu to Bongaigaon via Jogighopa-Pancharatna?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): No alternative arrangements for the ordinary carriage of goods and passenger traffic by means other than rail have been made by the Railway. Special arrangements were, however, made to evacuate by road, the passengers who had already arrived by train and had been held up at Bongaigaon prior to the suspension of the train services.

WAGON MOVEMENTS

***228. Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1134 asked on the 17th March, 1954 and state:

(a) whether Government have completed the examination of the memorandum submitted by the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry wherein a complaint was made of the inadequacy of transport

facilities at break-of-gauge points, etc.; and

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

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement indicating the position in respect of the points referred to in part (a) of the question is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 50.]

PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

*229. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tendencies of prices of foodgrains in the various food zones have been observed; and

(b) if so, what do they indicate?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 51.]

कुष्ठरोग का इलाज

*२३०. श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

(क) क्या कुष्ठरोग के लिये कोई प्रभावोत्पादक औषधि खोज निकाली गई है ?

(ख) क्या गांवों में इस का प्रयोग बड़े पैमाने पर किया गया है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस का क्या परिणाम हुआ है ?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Recent researches and clinical trials indicate that the sulphone group of drugs are efficacious in the treatment of leprosy.

(b) Sulphone therapy is being widely used in India, including the rural areas, but it has not yet been tried on a mass scale in heavily infected areas. This will now be done under the Leprosy Control Scheme which has recently been introduced.

(c) The results of clinical trials with sulphones have so far been quite encouraging.

ROADS

75. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total mileage of roads of all kinds in India prior to 1947;

(b) the mileage of all-weather roads in India prior to 1947;

(c) the mileage of motorable roads in India prior to 1947;

(d) the mileage of all-weather roads at present in India; and

(e) the mileage of motorable roads at present in India?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The information required, so far as it relates to municipal roads, is not available.

The available figures of mileage of extra-municipal roads prior to 1947 relate to prepartition India. The mileages of such roads as on the 31st March 1945, were as follows:

(a) Total mileage=3,13,342.

(b) Mileage of all-weather roads=1,37,336.

(c) Mileage of motorable roads = 2,27,488.

Reliable figures of mileage as on the 31st March 1946 and 31st March 1947 could not be obtained on account of the disturbances accompanying partition.

Upto-date figures showing the present mileages of extra-municipal roads in India, all-weather and motorable, are not available. The latest figures available, which are given below, show