

POST OFFICES

[*362. **Shri R. S. Tiwari:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of new post-offices, big and small, opened throughout India during the last year?]

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagdhan Rana): Sub Offices 97 Branch Offices 5,192.

BOBBILI-SALUR RAILWAY

*363. **Shri Ramaseshaiah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) when the construction of Bobbili-Salur Railway line will be taken up; and

(b) whether it is proposed to provide any amount for this scheme in the Budget for 1952-53?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) During 1952-53.

(b) Yes; a sum of Rs. 1 lakh has been provided for preliminary arrangements.

PURCHASE OF FERTILIZERS

*364. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) when will Government be in a position to place on the Table a report of the investigation regarding the purchase of Fertilisers on Government account;

(b) the action so far taken against those found responsible for the irregularities committed in connection with the purchase; and

(c) why there was such delay in the conduct of these investigations?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Police investigations in the case are still proceeding, and any premature publication of the materials is likely to prejudice the investigations. It is not possible therefore, to say when Government will be in a position to make a statement on the subject.

(b) One officer has already been dismissed from Government service after due departmental inquiry. Further investigations have been ordered against him and others connected with the purchase.

(c) There has not been any avoidable delay in this matter. Government was awaiting the Report of the Rajadhyaksha Committee and have ordered further Police investigations based on this Report.

PURCHASE OF TRACTORS

*365. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consignment of tractors was recently ordered for by the Government of India through an Indian firm;

(b) which was the firm,

(c) whether the tractors were found suitable for our country's conditions and if not, how much loss was incurred;

(d) whether a report has been submitted to Government regarding this transaction and if so, what are the recommendations; and

(e) what action has been taken on the recommendations?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). The Government of India have not placed orders for any consignment of tractors recently. However, since 1949, the following tractors have been procured in connection with the Land Reclamation Scheme:—

90 nos. of Allis-Chalmers tractors Model HD-19 from Pashabhai Patel and Co., Ltd.

90 nos. of Oliver Cletrac tractors Model FDE from William Jacks and Co., Ltd.

30 nos. of Caterpillar tractors Model D-8 from Tractor and Equipment Corp., Ltd.

30 nos. of International Harvester tractors Model TD-24 from Volkart Brothers.

(c) Every make of tractor has some special features which are found useful and some features which are disadvantageous. But, taking all relevant factors into account, all the tractors have been found suitable for our country's conditions.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

भारत ग राज्यों के लिये ट्रैक्टर

*३६६. श्री आर० एस० तिबारी :
क्या साब तया कृषि मंत्री यह बतानेकी
कृपा करेंगे :