

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The questions of representations are not dealt with here. They may be dealt with in the Ministry directly.

GUM FOR POSTAL ENVELOPES

*1583. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports from Postmasters in charge of Post offices in different climatic regions of India regarding the suitability of improved gum used on postal envelopes or postage stamps have been examined; and

(b) If so, whether the sample forwarded to the Postmasters has been approved?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) No. It has not been found suitable.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any enquiry about any other substance is being made by the British firm that was first requested to give us the result of its research?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The British firm supplied a gum known as arabic gum but it was not found to be suitable and now the Master, India Security Press, Nasik has recommended dextrine and we have found that good results are obtained from it.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any research on this subject is being made in India also independent of that firm?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I said, the Master, India Security Press does carry out that.

VANA MAHOTSAVA

*1584. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to celebrate and observe a third Vana Mahotsava this year; and

(b) what is the proportion of survivals of the trees planted during the first two Mahotsavas?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes.

(b) The reports for 1950 show that at least one-third of the plantings have survived. All the reports for 1951 have not yet been received.

Sardar Hukam Singh: So far as the first Vana Mahotsava was concerned we were told that one crore trees survived out of the three crores planted in the first winter. What happened to the 200 crores?

Shri Karmarkar: Our latest estimates show that in all 4 crores and 43 lakhs were planted in the first year and out of that 1 crore and 70 lakhs survived. The percentage was 38.4. Government have no further information on that point.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What happened to the second plantation that was done? What number or what percentage survived the first winter?

Shri Karmarkar: The total planted was three crores eleven lakhs and twelve thousand. The number surviving was estimated at one crore and more.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it for both plantations or one?

Shri Karmarkar: For the second plantation.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: I find a number of trees on Hastings Road have been cut down. Is it the Ministry's view that there are too many trees in New Delhi?

Shri Karmarkar: I shall convey this to the hon. Minister for Works, Housing and Supply.

Mr. Speaker: Let us go to the next question.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OFFICIAL TRAVEL ORGANISATIONS

*1585. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether the first meeting of the Regional Commission of the International Union of Official Travel Organisations was held in New Delhi as scheduled?

(b) If so, what were the subjects discussed at the meeting?

(c) Which of the countries were represented on the Commission's meeting?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to the reply given to part (b) of Starred Question No. 338 on 2nd June 1952.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, the activities of this Regional Commission after the Commission was started?

Shri L. B. Shastri: The Regional Commission has so far not done much. It is now proposed to take definite steps to expand the work.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, what are the countries that are represented on this Commission?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Australia, Cambodia, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Burma, Hong Kong, Malaya, Singapore, Thailand and a few other countries.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, the total expenditure that the Government have to bear for this Conference?

Shri L. B. Shastri: About Rs. 8,000.

TOURIST TRAFFIC ORGANISATION

*1586. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred by Government in running the tourist Traffic Organisation and connected offices and Committees during the years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to assess the result of setting up of these organisations and Committees;

(c) whether the sample surveys in respect of tourist earnings undertaken by the Reserve Bank of India have been completed; and

(d) if so, what are the findings of the surveys made?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The total expenditure incurred on the Tourist Traffic Organisation and on Advisory Committees during 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 was Rs. 1,500, Rs. 1,05,935 and Rs. 1,25,750 respectively.

(b) Periodical reports are called for from the Regional Tourist Officers, Honorary Regional Tourist Officers and Indian Missions abroad. Occasionally reports are also received from individual tourists regarding their impressions about tourist facilities in India. Special arrangements have also been made to collect statistics of tourist arrivals in India through the agency of the Collectors of Customs. These statistics show an upward trend in the flow of tourist traffic.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister is in a position to state the number of tourists that visited India during these periods?

Shri L. B. Shastri: About 20 thousands.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: With reference to part (a) of the question, how much of this expenditure has been incurred on the opening of Centres in New York?

Shri L. B. Shastri: We have so far opened no special Centre in New York. But the other day we have decided to open a new Centre in New York.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether all the tourist officers contemplated to be appointed, have been appointed?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Yes, they have been appointed.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the tourists travelling in India are exempted from the prohibition rules?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the amount of exchange earned on account of this industry?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Sample surveys are being made by the Reserve Bank of India and we have not received the report of the Reserve Bank so far.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if there are any other agencies in Europe to encourage tourist travel in India besides the centre contemplated for New York?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Our missions abroad are doing considerable work in this connection and they have been helping us a great deal.

INDO-PERSIAN AIR TREATY

*1587. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Indo-Persian Air Treaty talks have come to a close;

(b) if so, with what result; and

(c) the personnel of the Indian delegation sent and the expenditure incurred for the talks?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The hon. Member's attention is invited to the replies given to parts (b) and (c) of Dr. Ram Subhag Singh's Question No. 661 on the 10th June 1952. There has been no further development.