

beans and pulses etc., are moved by the Railways from their producing centres in the North to the South;

(b) whether direct wagons are made available;

(c) whether booking is normally done to Bombay alone and goods shipped from there to South;

(d) whether it is a fact that booking for this purpose is occasionally closed for months together; and

(e) the per maund cost of transport in case of direct Railway booking from North to South and of Railway booking from North to Bombay and shipment thereafter?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) No. Booking is open to all places.

(d) No. Booking of traffic is sometimes restricted for operational reasons, but not for months at a stretch.

(e) In the absence of specific particulars of forwarding and receiving stations, it is regretted it is not possible to supply this information.

NURSES

***2145. Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Australia have agreed to give free training to 100 nurses from India;

(b) whether Government have selected 100 candidates for the training of nurses in Australia;

(c) whether the Government of India will invite applications or how they will select the candidates; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the All India Women's Association have agreed to send the candidates for training?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Government of India have received no such offer from the Government of Australia.

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

(d) The offer that has come to the All India Women's Conference from some women's organisations in New Zealand is under their consideration.

POSTAL DELIVERY AREAS IN BARODA DISTRICT

***2146. Shri M. M. Gandhi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the areas for postal delivery are fixed in Chhota-udepur and Jubugam talukas in the Baroda district, Bombay State;

(b) whether any application from the public is received about this; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes. The delivery jurisdictions of the post offices in the two talukas are well defined.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

POST OFFICES IN BARODA DISTRICT

***2147. Shri M. M. Gandhi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people from Chhatrali and Kalarani villages of the Baroda district have applied for the Post Office and also agreed to bear the loss, if any; and

(b) if so, what steps are taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The residents of Chhatrali and Kalarani have applied for the opening of Post Offices and in the case of Chhatrali a guarantee for the amount of the loss has been offered. Since upto now the Department has been concentrating only on villages with a population of 2,000 and above, and the population of these two villages is 658 and 733 respectively, they have not been provided with Post Offices. However, because a guarantee against loss has been offered by the people of Chhatrali its case is being reconsidered. No guarantee has been offered in respect of village Kalarani, which cannot, therefore, be considered for the opening of a Post Office.

WIRELESS STATIONS AT UTTARKASHI AND HOJAI

***2148. Shri Bhakta Darshan:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two wireless stations were opened at Uttarkashi in Uttar Pradesh and at Hojai in Assam in connection with the recent General Elections;

(b) if so, whether they have been closed down now; and