

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

(c) if so, what alternative arrangements have been made for catering to the needs of the people of those areas?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A wireless station was opened at Hajo in Assam on 31st December, 1951, in connection with the recent General Elections. The wireless station at Uttarkashi was opened on the 26th May, 1952, for the benefit of the pilgrims during the pilgrim season which ends in October, 1952.

(b) Hajo wireless station was closed on the 28th January, 1952. Uttarkashi wireless station is still working.

(c) There is a telegraph office at Amingaon, 12 miles from Fajo. The other offices in this area are North Lakhimpur and Sadia wireless stations.

LABOUR OFFICERS

***2149. Shri Bhakta Darshan:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any Labour Officers working under the Posts and Telegraphs Department;

(b) if so, what is their number and what are their functions;

(c) whether Government have under consideration any proposal to increase their number; and

(d) whether Government are satisfied that they are doing useful work?

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

(b) Nine. A relevant extract of Rule No. 11, of the Labour Officers (Central Pool) Recruitment and Conditions of Service, 1951, which details their duties, is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 25.]

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

TUNDLA-KAS GANJ RAILWAY LINE

***2150. Ch. Raghubir Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey for the construction of a railway line from Tundla to Kas Ganj via Etah was ever made; and

(b) whether there is any possibility to revive this survey in near future?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) It is not proposed to undertake any survey in the near future.

IMPORT OF RICE FROM CHINA

***2151. Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ten thousand tons of rice have been recently imported from China; and

(b) if so, how would they be distributed to the various States of India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). We have entered into a contract with the Chinese Government to purchase one lakh metric tons of rice from China. Up to 17-7-52 about 19,300 long tons rice has been received and is being distributed as follows:—

(1) Bombay	3,600
(2) West Bengal	6,100
(3) Madras	7,600
(4) Travancore-Cochin	2,000
	19,300

SHILLONG-AGARTALA ROAD

***2152. Shri S. C. Deb:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shillong-Agartala Road is a National Highway and whether the work on the road is being done accordingly;

(b) what part of it will be new construction and what part will be taken from old road; and

(c) in what stage it is now and when the work will be completed?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) No.

(b) Only the Passi-Badarpur and Churaibari-Agartala sections are entirely new construction. The others are improvement of existing kutcha roads or tracks at different stages of development.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 26.]

SHAHADARA-SAHANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY

***2153. Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) if the policy of Government under the new re-grouping and re-