

SURGEONS FROM AMERICA

*1215. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether any batch of American Surgeons visited this country in the middle of November, 1954;

(b) if so, whether they came at the invitation of Government; and

(c) the purpose of their visit?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) To attend a meeting of the Indian Chapter of the International College of Surgeons in Bombay and to meet surgeons in India.

TICKETLESS TRAVELLING

*1217. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the Supplementary raised on starred question No. 316 on the 24th November, 1954 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Police authorities at Jubbulpore refused this year to take into custody ticketless travellers charged under Section 113 of the Indian Railway Act by ticket collectors;

(b) if so whether any instructions to this effect have been issued to the Railway Police; and

(c) the amount of revenue lost on account of ticketless travelling on this railway during the last two years?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The passengers who are dealt with under section 113 of the Indian Railways Act are not normally taken into custody by the Police unless they are arrested under section 132 in addition. The Police authorities have not refused to take into custody those so arrested.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not possible to make an accurate estimate of the amount of

revenue lost on account of ticketless travelling. The amount of excess fares and penalty realised from ticketless travellers on Central Railway during the 2 years was, however, as follows:—

	Rs.
1952-53	19,62,588
1953-54	15,95,311

LIGHT HOUSE NEAR KANDLA PORT

*1219. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the estimated cost of constructing the sea bed lighthouse at Lushing-ton Shoals near Kandla Port?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): No firm estimate has yet been prepared but on the basis of a tentative estimate prepared sometime ago, the cost of construction is likely to be about Rs. 50 lakhs.

SHIPPING CORPORATION

*1220. **Shri Magan Lal Bagdi:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to set up a Second Shipping Corporation is under the consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the decision taken so far in this regard?

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

(b) The matter is still in the preliminary stage of examination and no final decision has yet been taken.

MECHANISATION OF POSTAL SERVICES

*1224. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have so far been taken in pursuance of the advice given and the detailed plans furnished by the two British Postal Experts assigned to the Posts and Telegraphs Department under the Technical Assistance Scheme of the Colombo Plan for

the mechanisation of Postal Services; and

(b) if so, what machines have actually been installed and at which places?

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

(b) The recommendations made by the British Post Office Experts fall under the following three groups:

- (i) Installation of mechanical aids in existing buildings not involving building reconstruction.
- (ii) Mechanisation projects which are linked up with the construction of new buildings.

(iii) *General Recommendations.*

The recommendations under item (i) have been examined and action for their installation during 55-56 is in progress.

The new building proposals involving mechanisation in respect of which plans had been furnished by the Experts, have all been approved, except in regard to Calcutta which is still under examination. The plans which have been approved have been referred to the Central Public Works Department for preparation of architect's drawings. The installation of mechanical aids in the new buildings will be taken up after the construction of buildings has commenced.

The general recommendations relating to (i) standardisation of furniture (ii) adoption of certain standards in respect of postal buildings relating to width of public halls and length of public counters (iii) liaison with firms posting heavy mails etc. have been implemented.

GINGER (COMMISSION AGENTS)

*1225. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the observations made by the Spices Enquiry Committee in their Report of

1953 that 20 per cent. of market value of ginger is taken away from the producers by the Commission Agents; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure the maximum prices to the cultivators?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) A scheme is under consideration for the selection of centres for setting up regulated markets and licensed warehouses to ensure maximum prices to the cultivators.

BOOKING OF GOODS TRAFFIC

*1226. **Shri S. C. Singhal:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway stations all of a sudden receive orders frequently for the closure of booking of goods; and

(b) if so the procedure for issuing such orders and the authority which issues them?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) As and when warranted by operating conditions or civil bans, etc. the movement of traffic is restricted either partially or wholly, as the case may be, from and to certain areas.

(b) Normally restrictions are imposed either by the Operating or the Commercial departments depending upon as to whether the conditions pertain to operating or commercial working. As far as possible, the imposition of restrictions, all of a sudden, is avoided and timely notice is given to the public of the date from which a restriction is to take effect by putting up notices at the Goods Offices. Generally, a message imposing a restriction is not required to be enforced on the date of its receipt at the station if it is too late for the notification of the restriction before the commencement of the working hours.