

TELEPHONIC CONNECTIONS FOR BACKWARD AREAS

*1234. **Shri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect distant places in backward areas by telephone lines; and

(b) if so, whether Government have undertaken any survey of such backward areas?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Instructions have already been issued for providing trunk telephone facilities at the remaining District Headquarter towns. Government have recently decided to provide similar trunk facilities to Sub-Divisional towns also.

IODINE SALT

*1236. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have approached the Central Government for the setting up of a plant for the manufacture of iodine salt;

(b) if so, what will be the probable cost of the plant and in what proportion it will be borne by the Centre and the State; and

(c) the site of its location and its rated capacity?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) No.

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

RETIRING ROOMS

*1237. { **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:**
Shri G. L. Chaudhary:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to throw open the retiring rooms at railway stations to third class passengers; and

(b) if so, the charges that the third class passengers will be required to

pay for the occupation of these retiring rooms?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Instructions have already been issued to Railways that retiring rooms at railway stations should be available for all classes of passengers.

(b) The existing scale of charges.

POLIO

*1238. **Dr. Satyawadi:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent or allocated by the U.N.I.C.E.F. on the treatment of polio in India so far; and

(b) the details of the programme to fight polio in the country?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) \$22,600.

(b) A Statement showing details of the programme to fight polio in the country (assisted or sponsored by the Government of India) is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 40.]

SHAH NAWAZ COMMITTEE'S REPORT

*1239. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the replies to the supplementaries on starred question No. 348 on the 24th November, 1954 and state:

(a) the number of members of the National Railway Users' Consultative Council who have been associated with the examination of the report of the 'Reviewing Committee' regarding accidents on the railways; and

(b) when the report of the 'Reviewing Committee' was received by Government and when the examination of the 'Report' was taken up?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Two Members, viz., Shri L. P. Misra and Shri T. S. Pattabiraman, M.P.

(b) The Report of the 'Reviewing Committee' was received by the Government in the 1st week of November, 1954. Its examination was taken up in the 2nd week of the same month.

CONSTRUCTION OF MOTORABLE ROADS

*1240. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for providing a motorable road from Teliamura to Amarapur has been abandoned;

(b) if not, when the construction work is expected to be undertaken; and

(c) the total estimated cost of construction of this particular road?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) During the current financial year.

(c) Rs. 18.75 lakhs.

LIGHT-HOUSES

*1241. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the improvement and development of light-houses in the country during the current year;

(b) the amount sanctioned for this purpose for the current year;

(c) the amount spent so far out of this sum;

(d) the total value of the light-house equipment for which the orders have been placed abroad; and

(e) by what time the equipment is expected to arrive?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 41.]

(b) Rs. 50 lakhs.

(c) The amount of expenditure so far adjusted is Rs. 2.67 lakhs.

(d) Rs. 15,48,165.

(e) Equipment costing Rs. 9,52,103 is expected to arrive before March, 1955 and the remainder before the end of December, 1955.

EXPORT OF GINGER

*1242. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government for export promotion in respect of ginger;

(b) whether it is a fact that U.K. and U.S.A. have cut down their exports of this article; and

(c) if so, by what percentage, from 1950-51 to 1953-54?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 42.]

MOTOR VEHICLES AMENDMENT

*1243. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to bring forward the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill still exists;

(b) if so, when that Bill is likely to be introduced; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in introducing the Bill?

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

(b) and (c). The draft of the Bill, which was almost ready for introduction, is being reviewed in the light of certain recent judicial pronouncements and the Bill will be introduced as soon as possible.