

RAILWAY BOOKING OF FOODGRAINS

*453. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the cultivators in the colonisation areas of the Tarai in Nainital district (U.P.) where, besides individual farmers, the State Government has got an investment of about a crore of rupees, are forced to suffer economically owing to difficulty in booking of foodgrains from Gokulnagar and Kichha stations on North Eastern Railway to other stations?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): Yes. A complaint was made by the Prag Agricultural Farm, Gokulnagar, in September, 1953 and again in March, 1954, regarding difficulties being experienced in booking of foodgrains from Gokulnagar station. Enquiries made indicate that booking of foodgrains on Government account was freely met, but in the case of bookings on trade account, which fall under a lower priority, in certain cases there was some delay in providing transport. Indents at Gokulnagar and Kichha in recent months have been currently met.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

*456. **Shri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce a legislation for the declaration and maintenance of national highways; and

(b) if so, when the proposed Bill will be introduced and to what extent it will affect the present arrangement as to their maintenance?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). It is proposed to introduce legislation as soon as possible under entry 23 in List I of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution for the

declaration of highways as national highways and the administration of such national highways. At present roads accepted by the Government of India as national highways under an agreement with the States are generally maintained by the State Public Works Departments and this arrangement is expected to continue in the future also.

AERODROME AT SHILLONG

*459. **Shri Ibrahim:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for constructing an aerodrome at Shillong; and

(b) if so, by what time the construction will be completed?

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

(b) The preliminary inspection carried out by the Civil Aviation Department has indicated that due to the hilly topography of the area, only two sites at Elephant Falls and Laitlyngkot, which are 6 and 17 miles respectively from Shillong, could possibly be considered for the construction of an aerodrome. These sites are now being surveyed extensively by the Central Public Works Department, and the Meteorological Department has also been instructed to have detailed weather observations taken at these places over an extended period. As a final decision in this regard could be taken only on receipt of their reports, it is not possible to indicate at this stage when the construction of the aerodrome would be completed.

TICKETLESS TRAVELLING

*460. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suggestion of providing one ticket collector for every two coaches of the important long distance Mail and Express trains has materialized;

(b) if so, the number of ticket collectors appointed on each Railway; and

(c) the number of cases of ticketless travelling detected by these ticket collectors so far?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The suggestion is being implemented on an experimental basis selecting one long distance Mail or Express train on each Railway.

(b) In the experimental stage no additional ticket collectors or examiners have been appointed and the Travelling Ticket Examiners required for the purpose are being found from the existing staff.

(c) The system has been introduced so far on the Southern, Northern and Central Railways. The numbers of cases detected are:

Railway	Period	No. of cases detected.
Southern	19-11-54 to 22-11-55	61
Northern	18-10-54 to 24 10-54	298

Figures in respect of the Central Railway are not yet available.

The experiment will commence on other Railways shortly.

MEDICAL STAFF IN AGATTI ISLAND

*461. Dr. Rama Rao: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is no arrangement for a doctor and medical staff on a permanent basis in Agatti Island; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to provide adequate medical facilities to the people of this Island?

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

(b) The question of opening a permanent Government dispensary at Agatti Island is under the consideration of the Government of Madras.

गंगा पर रोपवे

*462. श्री आर० एन० सिंह : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ताड़ीघाट रेलवे स्टेशन (जिला गाजीपुर में) और गाजीपुर शहर के बीच गंगा पर एक रोपवे बनाने जा रही है ;

(ख) यदि सच है, तो इस योजना पर कितने व्यय की संभावना है ; और

(ग) पड़ताल कब तक हो जायेगी ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन मंत्री के सभासद (श्री शाहनवाज खां) : (क) ताड़ीघाट और गाजीपुर के बीच रोपवे से माल लैजाने और लैजाने के सम्बन्ध में विचार हो रहा है । लेकिन अभी कोई निर्णय नहीं किया गया है ।

(ख) और (ग) . इस जगह रोपवे की व्यवस्था पर लगभग २४ लाख रुपये की लागत का अनुमान है । अभी तक केवल प्रारंभिक जांच की गयी है, कोई ब्यौरवार सर्वे नहीं हुआ है ।

CHURCH SITE, MANIPUR

*460. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temples (mandirs) and mosques within the jurisdiction of the Imphal Town Fund;

(b) whether the representatives of the Christian Community of Manipur have approached the Government of Manipur on several occasions for a Church site within the Imphal Town Fund Area; and

(c) if so, what consideration Government have given to their demand?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.