

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The Committee have completed their work and their report has been received a few days back.

RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVES

***288. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the steps taken to prevent the excessive emission of smoke by locomotives and consequent pollution of the air?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Locomotive firemen are specially taught how to avoid excessive emission of smoke.

INDO-PAKISTAN CONFERENCE ON RAIL TRAFFIC

Shri G. P. Sinha:
***290. (Shri L. N. Mishra:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indo-Pakistan Conference on Rail Traffic was held in Delhi in December, 1954; and

(b) if so, what were the important decisions arrived at in that Conference?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Meetings of the Indo-Pakistan Railway Standing Committee and Stores Subcommittee took place at Delhi in December, 1954.

(b) A summary of the important decisions reached at the meetings has been placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 42].

MADRAS PORT

***293. Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that colliers calling at the port of Madras recently have again been put to inordinate delays in discharging due to acute congestion in the port and several steamers have even had to wait outside the harbour for days at a stretch for want of berths?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): There have been delays to colliers calling at the Port of Madras due to the bunching of ships, inclement weather and the discharge of locomotives and coach-shells for some days in one of the two berths reserved for colliers.

TRAINING IN HOME ECONOMICS

***295. Shri R. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some women students are to be sent to U.S.A. for training in Home Economics;

(b) if so, whether the selection of the candidates has been made;

(c) what is the duration of the training; and

(d) whether the students are to be sent at the expense of Government or on scholarships offered by the Government of U.S.A.?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) It is proposed to send 10 young women to the U.S.A. under the International Farm Youth Exchange Programme. Home Economics will be one of the subjects of training to be imparted to them.

(b) Not yet.

(c) Six months.

(d) Their passage from New Delhi to New York and back will be met by the 4-H Club Foundation of the U.S.A. and board and lodging will be provided by American host families.

POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND GOA

***300. Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that postal communications between India and Goa have been completely stopped from the date of introduction of the passport system;

(b) whether it is also a fact that mail bags have greatly piled up on both sides of the border; and