

(b) if so, the names of its members; and

(c) the functions of the Commission?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P.S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). The matter is still under consideration of Government.

Food Gift

***1076. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any food gifts to the neighbouring Asian countries since January, 1955;

(b) if so, to which countries; and

(c) the quantity thereof?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P.S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) Nepal and Cambodia.

(c) 15,000 tons.

Independent Telephone System

***1077. { Shri Heda ;
Shri P. Ramaswamy :**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any telephone systems in the country which are working independently of the Posts and Telegraphs Department under a licence granted by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in taking them over?

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

(b) In general, these licensed telephone systems are worked by private companies purely for their own administrative purposes, and not for gain. Majority of them are at out of the way places with no scope for general telephone growth and it would not be economical for the Posts and Telegraphs Department to take them over.

Only one of these licensed systems also provides connections to public of the area. Government is already considering taking over of this system as early as possible.

Medical Examinations

***1078. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to standardise the medical examinations conducted by the medical schools and colleges in the country; and

(b) if so, when this proposal will materialise?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Coastal Freight Rates

***1080. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Coastal Conference have postponed the raising of coastal freight rates by ten percent at the instance of Government; and

(b) if so, what further steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The Indian Coastal Conference proposed to increase the coastal freight rates by 10 percent from 1st June 1955 but they agreed to defer the proposed increase at the instance of Government. Subsequently, the matter was discussed at the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Consultative Committee of Shipowners held on the 22nd June 1955 and the Conference Lines have again represented their case for the proposed increase. Their representation is now under the consideration of the Government.

Malaria Control Units in Punjab

***1082. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 445 on the 25th March, 1955 and state the programme of the Malaria Control Unit in Punjab and the amount proposed to be spent on it during 1955-56 in that State?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The seven Malaria Control Units will continue to function during the year 1955-56 providing almost complete coverage to all the areas seriously affected by Malaria throughout the State.

The amount proposed to be spent on anti-malaria programme during 1955-56 in the Punjab State is as follows:—

(i) By the Punjab Government—Rs. 9,53,100.

- (ii) Contribution by the Government of India in the shape of insecticides, antimalaria drugs, essential equipment, motor vehicles etc.—
Rs. 11,95,400.

Betel Leaves

*1084. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sale of betel leaves is banned at certain Railway Stations;

(b) if so, names thereof;

(c) the reason therefor;

(d) whether there are any other articles whose sale has been banned on the Railway Station; and

(e) if so, the names of such articles?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 54].

(c) To ensure cleanliness of station premises.

(d) and (e). (i) Sale of alcoholic drinks, beef, any other part of cow's flesh and pork is prohibited at all stations.

(ii) Tea and fruits on the electrified suburban section of Southern Railway.

(iii) Lassi and Sharbat on Lucknow, Allahabad and Moradabad Divisions of Northern Railway.

All-India Co-operative Council

*1086. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 306 on the 24th November, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the All India Co-operative Council has since been set up;

(b) if so, the functions of the Council; and

(c) the name of the authority whose functions the Council will take over?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No, Sir.

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

Taxation Enquiry Commission

*1088. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the recommendation made by the Taxation Enquiry Commission in para 8 of Chapter X (Vol. I) of their Report in regard to the levy of taxes on various forms of travel as they exist in some countries like the U.S.A. Japan, Turkey, etc.; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

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

(b) The whole question is under consideration of Government.

Calcutta-Assam Airline

*1092. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the air route from Calcutta to Assam is so heavily booked that many passengers have to be refused transport;

(b) whether this problem becomes acute when the breaches occur in the Railway link due to rains; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to provide planes with more carrying capacity on the Calcutta-Assam Air route?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No Sir. Traffic demands have been adequately met by the Indian Airlines Corporation's scheduled services in the Assam area.

(b) and (c). There has been a spodic rise in traffic since the breaches in the Railway link and the increased demand has been met by the Indian-Airlines-Corporation by providing additional services and certain non-scheduled services. Indian-Airlines-Corporation cannot at present spare their Vikings or Skymasters which are of larger carrying capacity than Dakotas for being used for the carriage of passenger traffic in the Assam area.

Railway Line

*1096. **Shri Bheeka Bhai:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to lay a railway line from Ratlam to Udaipur via Banswara, Galiakot etc., and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?