

Shri Raj Bahadur : The total staff is thirty-five, including six vacant posts.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : What is the frequency of delivery of mails between the three islands, the Northern Andamans, Middle Andamans and Southern Andamans; what is the system carried out for delivery?

Shri Raj Bahadur : I cannot exactly give the number of deliveries from the various post offices, because that is absolutely a local matter.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : I want the frequency of delivery between the three islands. What is the system adopted for carrying the mails between the North, middle and south Andamans?

Shri Raj Bahadur : As regards post offices which are connected by land route the mails are conveyed by means of runners or other means of transport, and as regards those which are connected by sea by means of boat transport.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : What is the frequency?

Shri Raj Bahadur : If that means frequency of mails between the world and these islands then I would like to have notice.

Shri A. M. Thomas : May I know within how many days letters posted from the mainland reach the Andamans and vice versa?

Shri Raj Bahadur : About a week's or 14 days' time so far as I know, because that depends upon the steamer or boat Service traffic.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए कि अब एडमान्स और भारत के बीच हवाई सर्विस जारी हो गयी है, क्या सरकार डाक व्यवस्था भी हवाई जहाज द्वारा करने पर विचार कर रही है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : मैं यह निश्चित रूप से नहीं कह सकता कि हवाई सर्विस शुरू हो गयी है। उसके लिए भी प्लेन्स की आवश्यकता है जो मेरी जानकारी में अभी शुरू नहीं हुई है।

Holiday and Convalescent Homes

*319. **Dr. Satyawadi :** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 96 on the 26th July, 1955 and lay a state-

ment on the Table of the House showing :

(a) the details of the scheme for providing Holiday and Convalescent Homes for Central Government Servants; and

(b) the financial implications thereof?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur) : (a) and (b). It has since been decided that the scheme should be dropped.

Howrah-Burdwan Electrification Scheme

*320. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electrification of Howrah-Bandal-Burdwan Section is progressing according to Schedule; and

(b) the further steps Government propose to take to expedite the work?

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

(b) All efforts are being made to adhere to the scheduled date.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : May I know on how many miles of track electrification has been completed out of a total mileage of 262 miles?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : It has not yet been completed on any stretch so far.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : If it is not completed so far, may I know whether trains will run from the middle of 1957 as scheduled before?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : Yes, Sir I might explain that the length of railway line now anticipated to be electrified is 88 miles and it will cost Rs. 11.48 crores. The orders for rolling-stock and the sub-station electric equipment have been placed. We hope that by the scheduled time, the first train will start running.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : May I know whether the electrification up to Moghul-sarai via Grand Chord line will have to be kept pending till the completion of this scheme?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri) : Yes, Sir.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : In that case how do you propose to transport increased goods as a result of the industrial development in the Second Five Year Plan?

Shri L. B. Shastri : The goods have to be transported without that full line being electrified. We are trying to increase

the capacity in other ways. Of course, electrification cannot be completed in a short time; it is a big programme and will have to be done by phases.

Railway Catering

*322. **Shri Dabhi** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1720 on the 14th September, 1955 and state:

(a) whether arrangements for the sale to passengers of food packets containing *Puries* vegetables etc. of good quality at a moderate price have since been made on the various stations of the Western Railway; and

(b) if so, the nature of the arrangements?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan) : (a) Yes; at Ratlam and Baroda stations.

(b) Food packets each containing 4 *puries* weighing approximately 2 chhataks, with sufficient quantity of vegetables and pickles are sold at 4 annas per packet.

Shri Dabhi : May I know whether these arrangements will be made at other stations also and whether these arrangements are being made departmentally or through some contractors?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : At present, these times are being sold by contractors. But, our experience is that the contractors are not very happy selling foodstuffs at such cheap rates. We are not getting what you might term maximum co-operation. Therefore, in order to achieve really good results we will have to wait until departmental catering is introduced at these stations.

Shri Dabhi : How long will it take for the department to take it over?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : We hope that very early from 1st April, 1956 we will introduce departmental catering at certain stations in these railways.

Shri Kasliwal : May I know whether these *puries* are being fried in ordinary ghee or *vanaspati* ghee?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : Dalda, Sir.

श्री कुष्णाचार्य जोशी : क्या में जान सकता हूँ कि इसी तरह से इटली और साबर का इंतजाम सदर्न (दक्षिण) रेलवे पर किया जायेगा ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन मंत्री (श्री एल० बी० आस्त्री) : सदर्न रेलवे पर तो बहुत काफी

इंतजाम पहले ही है और वहाँ पर तो ३ आने में यह पैकेट मिलता है ।

Oil Pollution of Sea

*323. **Ch. Raghubir Singh** : Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of the conference held in London in 1954 for the prevention of pollution of the sea by oil discharged from ships; and

(b) how far they have been accepted by Government?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix III, annexure No. 2].

(b) The question of ratification of the international Convention for the prevention of Pollution of the Sea by oil, adopted at the conference is now under the consideration of Government in consultation with the interests concerned.

Ch. Raghubir Singh : May I know which countries took part in this Conference?

Shri Alagesan : I do not have a list of the countries that took part in this Conference; many countries should have taken part.

Ex-Servicemen

*324. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi** : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of *ex-servicemen* who received training in the States Basic Agricultural Schools under the orders of his Ministry during 1955; and

(b) how many trainees have been posted as village Level Workers?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : May I know how this selection is being made for training?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh : I do not think there is any special effort made to get the *ex-servicemen*. All that we propose to find out is if any *ex-servicemen* have been taken. ■