

Nationalisation of Railways

*360. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to nationalise all non-Government Railways in the near future; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The assets of such Railways are mostly obsolete and overaged and need extensive rehabilitation at heavy cost. Available resources have to be conserved for creation of new assets and not spent on acquiring old and obsolete assets.

National Highways

*361. Shri N. M. Lingam : Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any basic schedule of rates for National Highway Works in the country; and

(b) if not, the maximum degree of variation per mile of work including surfacing?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) : (a) No, Sir. As rates for each item of work vary with locality, State schedules of rates for each division are adopted for National Highway estimates.

(b) The cost of construction of a road depends on several factors such as location, nature of soil, specification, width of the carriageway, cross drainage works etc. Roughly, for a road having a single lane black-topped carriageway, the cost per mile can vary from Rs 75,000/- to Rs. 3,00,000/-.

Flag Station at Chikna, N.E. Railway

*362. Shri L.N. Mishra : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1224 on the 30th August, 1955 and state:

(a) the decision taken regarding conversion of the Chikna Halt on North-Eastern Railway into a flag station;

(b) whether this halt would be opened for foreign traffic; and

(c) the steps taken to provide a passenger shed at this halt?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) : (a) The matter is still under examination.

(b) and (c) Provision of these facilities will be considered after a decision is taken regarding conversion of the halt into a flag station.

Poultry

*363. Shri S.C. Samanta : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 927 on the 14th March, 1955 and state:

(a) when the proposed Poultry Development Centres are proposed to be established;

(b) whether any help will be forthcoming from the F.A.O. in this regard;

(c) if so, to what extent; and

(d) whether Government have any statistics about the poultry population in the country?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) Under the revised Pilot Project, 50 Poultry Development Centres are to be established in the various States as against 15 referred to in the reply given on the 14th March, 1955. Of these, 19 centres have already been established and the remaining 31 centres are expected to be established before the 31st March, 1956.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes.

Night Air Services

*364. { Chaudhri Muhammad Shafiq;
Sardar Iqbal Singh;

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four-engined luxury Skymasters have replaced the twin-engined Dakotas in the night air services of the Indian Airlines Corporation;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) the number of the Skymasters acquired?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) : (a) and (b). The Skymasters have replaced Dakotas on the night Air Mail Services with effect from the 5th November, 1955.

(c) The Corporation have acquired three Skymasters in addition to three aircraft of this type already with them.