

(b) what Government propose to do for these two historical sites in connection with the forthcoming Buddha Jayanti celebrations; and

(c) whether Government are preparing any illustrated booklet giving facts about the artistic, historical and educational importance of these two ancient centres?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahawaz Khan): (a) and (b). These places have not been included in the list of tourist centres to be developed in connection with the Buddha Jayanti celebrations. Proposals for developing them are however under consideration as part of the 2nd Five Year Plan.

(c) The Guide to South India (Madras & Andhra) brought out by the Ministry of Transport in March 1954, contains a paragraph on the importance of these two places.

AIR ROUTES TO FAR EAST

***259. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased state:

(a) whether it is proposed to open new routes to the Far East after inaugurating a second service to Tokyo by Air India International; and

(b) if so, when these will be opened?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Air-India International have duplicated their service to Tokyo with effect from 5th January 1956. They have a tentative proposal to extend their Bombay-Madras-Singapore service to Australia but it is not possible to say when this would materialise as the proposal is only under consideration still and has to be carefully examined from various points of view such as traffic potential, availability of aircraft and crew etc.

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

***260.** { **Shri M. Islamuddin:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of crafts has not yet begun for the development of inland water transport on the Upper Ganga.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by what time mechanically propelled navigation on the Ganga from Patna to Allahabad and on the Ghagra from Patna to Bharanghat will be introduced?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahawaz Khan): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The craft is already under construction and is expected to be ready in about a year's time.

(c) As soon as the craft becomes available.

R.M.S. HEADQUARTERS "C" DIVISION

***261.** { **Shri G. P. Sinha:**
Shri K. K. Das:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to shift R.M.S. "C" Division's headquarters from Calcutta to Gaya in Bihar?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Yes.

RURAL MATERNITY CENTRE

***262.** { **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:**
Shri Ibrahim:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any instruction has been sent to the States to open maternity centres at important rural areas where other medical facilities are very meagre?