

RURAL POST OFFICES

482. **Shri Jasani:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many and in what States the Rural Post Offices in the villages or group of villages with the population of two thousand and above were opened during 1949-50, 1950-51, and 1951-52;

(b) the total expenditure (year-wise) incurred by Postal Department to run these post offices; and

(c) the net loss or profit sustained or gained on the working of these post offices during this period?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A statement containing the required information is attached. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 45.]

(b) *Expenditure:*

1949-50—Rs. 8,00,395.

1950-51—Rs. 22,42,052.

1951-52—Rs. 38,85,472.

(c) *Loss:*

1949-50—Rs. 2,89,997.

1950-51—Rs. 9,14,047.

1951-52—Rs. 11,15,512.

KALIGHAT-FALTA RAILWAY

483. **Shri K. K. Basu:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of license of the running of Kalighat-Falta Railway;

(b) whether any subsidy is paid to such Railways; and

(c) if so, on what terms?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The main provisions of the contract for the construction and working of the Kalighat-Falta Railway are as follows:

(i) Land is provided by Government free of cost to the Company.

(ii) The Rates and Fares charged on this Railway are such as are sanctioned by Government.

(iii) When the net receipts of the Company in any year exceed 5 per cent, on the paid up share capital, the excess is divisible in equal proportion between Government and the Com-

pany but when in any year the net receipts do not exceed 5 per cent, on the paid up share capital the whole of the net earnings belong to the Company. If, however, the net receipts are not sufficient to pay interest at the rate of 3½ per cent, per annum on the paid up share capital, Government pays to the Company a sum which together with the net receipts will make up an amount equal to 3½ per cent.

(iv) Government can take over the Railway either on certain specified dates or on fulfilment of certain conditions as laid down in the contract.

(b) and (c). Yes. In accordance with the terms already stated.

TELEPHONE LINE TO RAYAGADA

484. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to extend the trunk telephone line to Rayagada, a town in the district of Kosupat (Orissa); and

(b) if so, when?

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

(b) During 1953-54 if the project proves to be remunerative.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

485. **Shri Jasani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many Consumers Co-operative Societies there are of Railway Employees and at what places;

(b) the total membership and subscribed capital; and

(c) the total turnover of business done by these Societies during 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) There are 78 Co-operative Societies on the Railways in the following station:

Matunga, Khargpur (3), Adra, Chakardharpur, Nainpur, Titilagarh, Kantabanji, Waltair, Vizagapatam, Kurda Road, Cuttack, Bilaspur, Tamsar Road, Gondia, Itwari, Nagpur, Chitpur, Naihati, Kanchrapara, Lil-loah, Jamalpur (2), Dinapur, Moghalsara, Ondal, Asansol, Dhanbad, Gomoh, Delhi, Kalka, Jullundur Cantt., Allahabad, Harthala, Rosa, Bikaner, Lucknow, Pandu, Lumding, Badarpur,

Dibrugarh Town, Alipore Duar and Bongaigon, Tambaram, Trichinopoly, Golden Rock, Ponnmalai Patti, Villupuram, Podanur, Erode, Coonoor, Negapatam, Madura, Jalarpet, Hubli, Mysore, Dajar, Buisar, Ajmer (2), Abu Road, Bandikui (2), Phulera (2), Rewari, Mhow, Ratlam, Neemuch, Dohad, Gangpur, Chittaranjan (6).

Note.—Each branch of a society has been counted as a separate society.

(b) The total membership of these societies is 39,630 and the total subscribed capital is Rs. 7,45,383.

(c) The total turnover of business done by these societies during 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 are Rs. 46,58,697, Rs. 48,82,957 and Rs. 54,74,465 respectively. The last figure does not include information regarding 3 societies which is not yet available.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

486. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges which are proposed to be expanded in the year 1952-53; and

(b) what would be the net increase in lines as a result of this expansion programme?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 57 existing exchanges to be expanded and 62 new exchanges to be opened.

(b) 12,880 lines due to expansion of existing exchanges and 7,120 lines due to opening of new exchanges.

FOOD CONTROLS

487. Shri Bansal: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the cost incurred by the Central Government in the administration of food controls; and

(b) the estimated saving by the Centre as a result of the modification of the food control policy?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

488. Shri Ganpati Ram: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of National Highways proposed to be constructed during the next five years in Uttar Pradesh and specially in Banaras and Gorakhpur Divisions; and

(b) the estimated cost per mile, and what would be the minimum cost per mile if bricks-gitti instead of stone pieces are given?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Three miles of entirely new construction in the Basti District of Gorakhpur Division.

About 310 miles are proposed to be improved or upgraded, of which 21 miles will be in Banaras Division and 16 miles in Gorakhpur Division.

(b) Rs. 64,000 per mile for the new construction mentioned above. These estimates are for the use of kankar metal. The difference in the cost of stone and brick metal varies with each locality depending in particular, on the distance from which the materials have to be brought.

COTTON CULTIVATION

489. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage under cotton cultivation in Madras State during 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(b) the total quantity of cotton produced during the period; and

(c) the variety of cotton produced?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). Final estimate for 1951-52 has not yet been issued but a statement containing the available information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 46.]

KUTCH STATE EMPLOYEES

490. Shri Bhawanji: Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who retired or who have been made to retire on account of superannuation or inefficiency since the Administration of Kutch was taken over by the Centre;

(b) the number of persons who so retired and who are receiving pensions or who have been paid off the amounts of their gratuities;