

(b) whether Indian-owned agencies can operate without restriction in other parts of the world?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) There are, at present, 31 Travel Agencies with 35 branch offices borne on the approved list of the Department of Tourism. Out of this number, 4 Travel Agencies viz. M/s. American Express Co., Bombay, M/s Cox and King, Bombay, M/s Thos Cook and Son (Continental Overseas) Ltd, Bombay and M/s. Everett Travel Service, Calcutta are foreign owned and the remaining are Indian-owned.

(b) the Indian-owned agencies cannot operate in other parts of the world until they get clearance from the Department of Economic Affairs for remittance of foreign exchange abroad to meet their expenses on the maintenance of their offices.

As for restrictions by other countries in whose territory a particular Indian-owned Travel Agency wishes to operate are concerned, it depends on the policy of the country concerned and the practice differs from country to country.

Lucknow-Barabanki Railway Track

1581. Shri Vishram Prasad: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the railway track between Lucknow and Barabanki, Northern Railway, was damaged as a result of floods;

(b) whether the level of the track is being raised; and

(c) if so, the cost thereof and how much time it would take to complete the project?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The work is expected to be completed by the end of June, 1963 at an approximate cost of Rs. 10 lakhs.

Port Charges at Calcutta

Shri Maheswar Naik:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
1582. Shri Kapur Singh:
Shri Narasimha Reddy:
Shrimati Basant Kunwari:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(c) whether proposals for increase of port charges suggested by the Calcutta Port Commissioners have been submitted to the Central Government for approval;

(b) the reasons which necessitated the proposals for the increase; and

(c) what increased revenue is expected as a result of these proposals?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes. Proposals for revision of the Calcutta Port charges on foodgrains and coal, Railway local haulage charge, Berth hire, wharf toll and Pilotage fees have been received by the Central Government.

(b) The increases in charges are considered necessary to meet increased annual expenditure on account of interest payments on loans, repayment of principal of some of the loans taken, increase in establishment expenditure and higher prices and costs.

(c) About Rs. 98.6 lakhs in all per annum.

Railway Saloons

1593. Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Air-conditioned Railway Saloons are being made for the use of Railway Officials; and

(b) if so, how many of these are to be built during the Third Five Year Plan and total cost involved?