Sale of Judicial Stamps

1386. Shri D. D. Mantri: Will the Minister of P. & T. be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have decided to sell judicial stamps and papers through post offices; and
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) There is no proposal under consideration for the sale of judicial stamps at post offices. However, certain non-judicial and non-postal stamps are being sold at some post offices in Delhi only since 1-11-1962.

(b) The sale has been undertaken at the request of the Delhi Administration to provide greater facilities to the public.

West Coast Road

1387. Shri A. V. Raghavan: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the alignment of the West Coast Road in the Union territory of Mahe has been finalised;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposed road alignment;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to construct any new road bridge in and around Mahe, and (d) if so, the estimated cost of the road?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). At present the West Ceast Road goes through the town of Mahe. The Government of Kevala State is framing a proposal for the construction of a bye-pass round the Town as part of the West Coast Road.

(c) The proposed bye-pass will include the construction of a new bridge across the Mahe river. A regulator across the Mahe river is also proposed to be constructed near Mahe town. The possibility of combining the road bridge with the regulator is

under investigation at present. The exact alignment of the the Mahe byepass will depend on the site chosen for the new bridge and for the regulator.

(d) The cost of ferming the hyepass at Mahe is estimated at Rs. 16 lakhs and that of the new bridge, about Rs. 6 lakhs.

Panchayati Raj Institutions

1388. Shri Ram Ratan Gupta: Will the Minister of Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he made a statement in Chandigarh that the police was opposed to Panchayati Raj Institutions in Punjab; and
- (b) if so, the basis for these remarks?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development & Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) and (b). Union Minister (C.D. & C) attended a meeting of the Chairmen of Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samitis in Punjab at Chandigarh on the 8th July, 1963. In the course of discussions, many of the delegates complained of interference by officials of the Police and Revenue Departments in the working of Panchayati Raj institutions. During his subsequent press conference, replying to a question. Union Minister referred to this criticism made by the Chairman of Panchayati Raj bodies.

Realingment of Narrow Gauge Kangra Valley

1389. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 39 on the 19th February, 1963 and state the progress so far made in the realignment of the narrow gauge Kangra Valley Section of the Northern Railway?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): Field work for this resurvey