

**TRAIN RUNNING BETWEEN GWALIOR
AND SHEOPUR**

519. **Shri R. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what improvements, if any, have been made in the train running from Gwalior to Sheopur for the accommodation of passengers after the taking over the administration of State Railways from Madhya Bharat Government?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The arrangements for accommodation of passengers were satisfactory and no change has therefore been made except that from 1-10-1952, 8 inter class seats have been up-graded to second class consequent on the abolition of inter class on this train.

**NORTHERN DISTRICTS OF MADHYA BHARAT
(RAILWAY LINE)**

520. **Shri R. C. Sharma:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have any plan at present to extend the Railway line in Northern districts of Madhya Bharat and if so, what is that plan?

(b) Do Government propose to execute the old State Railway extension plan joining Ambah with Gwalior-Bhind Railway line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) There is no approved plan but Government are examining a proposal to connect Sheopur, the terminus of the Gwalior-Sheopur Narrow Gauge Railway by a Metre Gauge line to Sawai-Madhopur, and to convert the existing Gwalior-Sheopur-Bhind Narrow Gauge lines into Metre Gauge.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

BOMBAY TELEPHONE WORKSHOP

521. **Shri Kajrolkar:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift the Bombay Telephone Workshop to Bangalore or anywhere else; and

(b) if not, whether it is proposed to construct another building to house the workshop in Bombay itself?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to shift the workshop to Bangalore. The selection of a suitable site in Bombay City or its suburbs is receiving attention. As soon as the site has been selected the question of constructing a building would be taken up.

QUARTERS FOR POST MASTERS

522. **Shri Bogawat:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the revised austerity standard of accommodation for quarters of different grades of Post Masters; and

(b) whether it is a fact the Departmental rules require that the Postmaster must stay and sleep in the premises even if he has his own house in the town?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The austerity standard of accommodation applies to all category of staff according to their pay scales. Accordingly the revised types of austerity standard accommodation of quarters applicable to Postmaster of different grades would be:—

Pay	Type of accommodation.	Plinth area (sq. ft.)	
		Single storey	Double storey
Rs.			
600 to 1750	B	1920	2280
250 to 599	C	930	1110
55 to 249	H	600	735

(b) Yes.

BRANCH POST OFFICES

523. **Shri Bogawat:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Branch Post Offices opened in 1950-51 and 1951-52 and the total number made permanent in Bombay circle;

(b) the total number of Branch Post Offices that are self-supporting in Bombay circle; and

(c) what is the permissible loss on each Branch Post Office and the total loss suffered by the Department in 1950-51 and 1951-52 in Bombay circle for maintaining these post offices?

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

Year.	Number of Branch P.Os. opened in Bombay Circle.	Total number of Post offices made permanent in Bombay Circle
1950-51	156	336 (includes those that were opened in previous years).
1951-52	336	269

(b) 3450 as on 31st March 1952.

(c) In the case of newly-opened Branch Post offices the limit is (i) Rs. 750 per annum provided the office serves a well demarcated village unit having a population of 2,000 or over, or a compact group of villages with similar population, no two villages within the group being separated by a distance exceeding 4 miles. (ii) Rs. 500 per annum when the above conditions are not satisfied.

The total loss suffered by the Department in Bombay circle on rural Post offices:—

1950-51	Rs. 1,12,833-2-10
1951-52	Rs. 1,48,490-0-4

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

524. Prof. D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government charge any fee for registration with the employment exchanges from the would-be employees?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): No.

FORESTS

525. Shri Ganpati Ram: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of reserved forests, protected and unclassified forests in India;

(b) the percentages of increase or decrease after 1941; and

(c) the valuable products of reserved forests and their approximate annual demand for home consumption and the total quantity annually exported to foreign markets?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). Three statements giving the available information are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 46.]