

CALICUT RAILWAY STATION

818. Shri Kelappan: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Calicut Railway Station was constructed in the 19th Century when Calicut was the terminus of the S. I. Railway in Malabar;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is only one platform for passengers and parcels in that station;

(c) whether Government are aware that almost always the platform is crowded with parcels and the passengers find it difficult to use the platform; and

(d) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Parcel Office accommodation at the station is insufficient and it is correct that parcels have to be kept on the platform causing a certain amount of inconvenience to passengers at times.

(d) Owing to the space available being limited, it is not possible to provide an additional platform, but the provision of an additional Parcel Office is under consideration.

BOMBAY TELEPHONE SYSTEM

819. Shri Kajrolkar: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware of a resolution passed by Bombay Corporation requesting to hand over the Bombay Telephone System to the Corporation?

(b) If so, do Government propose to hand over the Bombay State Telephone System to the Corporation?

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

(b) No, Sir. I may say in this connection that the hon. Member had sent a copy of the Bombay Corporation's Resolution to the Minister for Communications for consideration. I lay on the Table of the House a copy of the reply that was sent to the hon. Member, explaining fully the telephone position in Bombay. I also lay on the Table of the House a statement giving the present equipped capacity of the Bombay Telephone System and the programme of re-equipment and expansion. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 9].

NORWEGIAN DELEGATION

820. Sardar A. S. Saigal: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Norwegian Delegation which arrived in India propose that a fisheries community-development programme be initiated?

(b) Are negotiations going on for the programme?

(c) Is it a fact that the programme will be initiated in an area in Travancore-Cochin?

(d) Is it a fact that the delegation is in consultation with the representatives of the U.N. Technical Assistance Board and that the Government of India have approved the scheme?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

IMPORT OF TIMBER FROM ANDAMANS

821. Shri Rajagopala Rao: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing timber from Andamans and if so, at which ports;

(b) whether Visakhapatnam Port is one such port; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Government of India have already installed depots at the ports of Calcutta and Madras into which timber from Andamans is imported and sold to the Public.

(b) and (c). There are no regular shipping facilities between Port Blair and Visakhapatnam at present but the question of supplies to Visakhapatnam is under consideration.

Shivaratri Jatra (SPECIAL TRAINS)

822. Shri H. G. Vaishnav: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether special trains were arranged on the occasion of the last Shivaratri Jatra for Puri-Vajinath, Ondha Nagnath, and Ellora which are the Jyotirlinga places in Hyderabad State?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how many special trains were arranged and on what dates?