

pleased to state whether the construction of Bobbili-Salur Branch line has been completed?

(b) If so, when are the trains expected to commence running on this line?

(c) What is the total cost incurred on the restoration of this line?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Not yet, Sir. It is still in progress.

(b) Before the end of the current financial year.

(c) Rs. 11.69 lakhs approximately.

**OVER-BRIDGE AT BOBBILI RAILWAY STATION**

**525. Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to construct an over-bridge at the Bobbili Railway Station?

(b) If so, when its construction will begin?

(c) What is the estimated cost?

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

(b) As soon as all the materials for fabrication of the bridge structure, which have been indented for, are received, the fabrication work will be taken in hand. Actual construction work at site would be started soon after the fabrication work has been completed.

(c) Rs. 15,256.

**POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN KANGRA DISTRICT**

**526. Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post and telegraph offices in the Kangra District, in August, 1947;

(b) the number of post and telegraph offices opened there up to date, year-wise, since August, 1947; and

(c) the number of places where new post and telegraph offices are proposed to be opened during the remaining three years of the First Five Year Plan?

**The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) On the 15th August, 1947, the number of post and telegraph offices in Kangra District was as follows:—

(i) Post Offices excluding Combined Post and Telegraph Offices ... 190

(ii) Combined Post and Telegraph Offices 29

(b)	P. Os.	C. Os.
1947-48	33	—
1948-49	8	—
1949-50	11	—
1950-51	4	2
1951-52	7	1
1952-53	1	—
1953-54	4	—
(up to date)	68	3

(c) Post Offices ... 19  
Combined Post Offices ... 2

**PILGRIMAGE TAX**

**527. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the stations in Rajasthan where terminal or pilgrim tax is levied; and

(b) the annual income from such taxes at each station?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

**LOCUST INVASION**

**528. Shri D. C. Sharma:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the amount of damage caused by the locust invasion in India in 1953?

(b) How does it compare with the invasion of 1952?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) According to the estimates of the State Governments, the amount of damage done to agricultural produce is about 650 tons during the current year.

(b) State Governments reported that damage done in 1952 was about 19,000 tons.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

529. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons sought employment assistance at the Employment Exchanges during the month of September 1953; and

(b) whether there is shortage of qualified compounders, electricians and technicians in the employment lists?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) 1,21,600.

(b) Yes.

#### MINOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN WEST BENGAL

530. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of small irrigation projects taken in hand and completed since 1947, yearwise, in West Bengal;

(b) the total area benefited; and

(c) the area reclaimed and benefited?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) to (c). The information is being collected from the Government of West Bengal and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

#### MALARIA CONTROL UNITS

531. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Malaria Control Units that are actually operating under the National Malaria Control Programme throughout the country;

(b) whether any assessment of the work done so far has been made;

(c) if so, what is the result of the assessment;

(d) the total number of houses that are regularly sprayed with D.D.T.; and

(e) the total number of cases of malaria, that have so far been treated under this Programme?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a), (d) and (e). The required information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) Not yet.

(c) Does not arise.

#### SCHEDULED CASTES

532. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of candidates belonging to scheduled castes who sat for the Combined Engineering Services Examination held in January, 1953;

(b) the number of vacancies reserved for the scheduled castes; and

(c) the number of candidates interviewed and finally selected?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** By the courtesy of the Union Public Service Commission the following information is given:

(a) Three.

(b) Eleven.

(c) Two Scheduled Castes Candidates were interviewed by the Union Public Service Commission who have recommended one candidate for appointment.

#### GUDUR MICA MINES

533. **Shri Nanadas:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of jack hammers that are in use in Gudur Mica mining area?