

contribution paid to the Commonwealth Tele-Communication Board during 1952-53?

(b) What is the representation of India on the Board and where is the head office of the Board?

(c) Are any Indians employed in this office and if so, how many?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Rs. 60,000.

(b) India like other Commonwealth countries has one representative on the Board. The office of the Board is in London.

(c) Yes, one.

MAHABIRJI RAILWAY STATION

***1431. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that about a lac of passengers visit Shri Mahabirji Railway Station on the Western Railway every year?

(b) Are Government aware that the railway timings of arrival and departure are inconvenient and representations to this effect have already been submitted to the authorities concerned?

(c) Do any fast or mail trains stop at this station?

(d) If not, do Government propose to stop any one of the trains there?

(e) Have Government considered the advisability of extending the Shuttle trains to Sawai Madhopur or attaching special bogies to and from the station by 33 down and 34 up trains?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) An average of about 82,000 passengers visit Shri Mahabirji, every year.

(b) Of the two trains each way, including one fast express train, serving this station, the timings of the express trains, which pass this station late at night, are not convenient. No repre-

sentations have been received regarding it.

(c) and (d). Yes, Nos. 33 Down and 34 Up Dehra Dun Express trains.

(e) There is not sufficient traffic justification for the extension of the shuttle train between Bayana and Sawai Madhopur which would also necessitate the provision of facilities for turning broad gauge engines at Sawai Madhopur and which are not otherwise required. Neither there is sufficient traffic justification for the introduction of a through service carriage from and to Shri Mahabirji for which also facilities at considerable expenditure will have to be specially provided at Shri Mahabirji for attaching and detaching the carriages within a reasonable time.

OVER-BRIDGES

***1432. Shri Lakshmayya:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Municipality of Anantapur town presented a memorandum to the Deputy Minister during his visit to Guntakal requesting the construction of an over-bridge on the railway line between Anantapur and Bangalore; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the request?

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

(b) The level crossing in question has been included by the Madras Government in the list of level crossings, they have recommended for replacement by over-bridges and they have assigned to it the 29th position in the order of priority. The work can, therefore, be undertaken only when the road authorities concerned find funds for their share of the cost.

HUBLI AERODROME

***1433. Shri Neswi:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state at what stage the proposal for constructing an aerodrome in Hubli is at present?

(b) What are the findings of the site selection committee and what action Government propose to take on their findings?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). Hubli has been included in our current programme for the construction of new aerodromes. A site 3 miles from Hubli Railway Station on the Hubli-Amengiri road has been selected and, funds permitting, the work is expected to be taken up within the next three years.

RAILWAY LAND

***1434. Pandit S. C. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lands leased out under the policy of affording opportunity for growing more food, cease to be Railway property;

(b) if so, whose property such kind of land becomes; and

(c) whether Government have laid down any specific rules for the leasing out of such land?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. Surplus Railway land fit for cultivation is handed over to the State Governments for letting to individual cultivators subject to the condition *inter alia* that no accrual of occupancy or tenancy right arises.

RAILWAY LAND

***1435. Pandit S. C. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one hundred *bighas* of Railway land near Burhee Station on Eastern Railway, have been leased out to one single person;

(b) whether a representation has been received by Government on behalf of landless Scheduled Castes for the grant of this land; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are contemplating to take in this matter?

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

There is no station as Burpaya on the Eastern Railway. Presumably the hon. Member is referring to Burhee Station. About 39 acres surplus Railway land fit for cultivation has been handed over to the State Governments for letting to cultivators, and the responsibility for distributing such lands lies entirely with them. It is reported that the State Government have let this land to one person.

(b) No representation has been received by the Ministry of Railways.

(c) Does not arise.

MONGHYR-MONGHYR GHAT STEAMER SERVICE

***1436. Pandit S. C. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steamer service between Monghyr and Monghyr Ghat was at any time a co-ordinated railway service run by the late E.I.R. Company; and

(b) if so, when was this service given up and under what circumstances?

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

Yes, Sir, from 1920 to 31st May, 1943.

(b) From 1st June, 1943, the railway ferry service between Monghyr and Monghyr Ghat was closed down due to the requisitioning of ferry steamers for Military purposes.

GORAKHPUR LABOUR FORCE ORGANISATION

***1437. Shri Mohana Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers recruited by Gorakhpur Labour Force