

a card system and after a month weeding-out of the unsuitable candidates is done on the basis of record card."

P. AND T. OFFICES IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

404. Shri V. P. Nayar: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total number of Anchal offices taken over from the Travancore-Cochin State and converted to post offices from the Taluks of Chirayinkil, Nedumangad, Quilon Kottara Kav and Patnanpuram?

(b) How many new post and telegraph offices have been opened in those areas since integration?

(c) How many telegraph and telephone public call offices are functioning now in each of the above taluks?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (c). A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 42.]

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S FOOD COUNCIL

405. Shri Muniswamy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether gifts were received by the All-India Women's Food Council from foreign countries during 1952 and 1953;

(b) if so, from which places and the nature of these gifts; and

(c) how these gifts were utilised by the Council?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) 70 cases of Iraqi dates were received in June, 1953 from the Iraqi Date Association.

(c) They were distributed through the various branches of the Council.

WAGON TRANSHIPMENT

406. Seth Achal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state why the contracts for transshipment of wagons and handling of parcels and goods are not re-tendered every year on the Western Railway while tenders for other contracts of the same nature, like the handling of coal, etc, under R.M.E. and R.E.N, are invited every year?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): In the case of parcels and general goods, owing to the nature and value of the commodities involved, handling needs considerable care and efficiency to avoid risk of damage etc. It is, therefore, not desirable to have frequent changes in the handling contracts.

MOKAMEH BRIDGE

407. Shri Anirudha Sinha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the expenditure so far incurred in connection with the Mokameh bridge project?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Rs. 69.26 lakhs approximately upto the end of March, 1954.

मध्य भारत में रेलवे लाइनों

४०८. श्री राधेलाल व्यास : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य भारत सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार को, राज्य की रेलवे लाइनों और उन से सम्बन्धित चल तथा अचल सम्पत्ति के साथ कितना रुपया नकद या निधि के रूप में दिया था; और

(ख) इस धन का उपयोग किस प्रकार करने का विचार है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is herewith attached. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 43.]