

(ख) क्या छोड़े की फिश-प्लेटों को काम में ला कर इस अभाव की पूर्ति करना संभव है ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि रेलें स्लीपर्स के लिये विदेशों से लकड़ी आयात करने की एक योजना बन रही है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कितनी लकड़ी आयात करने का विचार किया जा रहा है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The Railways' requirements of M.G. wooden sleepers are not being met in full.

(b) It is presumed that by iron fish-plates the hon. Member means metal sleepers. Every attempt is made to meet shortage in wooden sleepers by supplies of metal sleepers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN MANIPUR

*574. **Shri Kishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred question No. 1781 regarding Road construction in Manipur, asked on the 14th April, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the local tribal people have made representations to the Government of Manipur to take over the thirty mile long jeepable road connecting the Litan Road at Mahadeb; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

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

(b) Does not arise.

SALE OF SOVIET PUBLICATIONS

*575. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that books and periodicals printed and published

in the U.S.S.R. are not allowed to be sold on the Railway platforms even now; and

(b) whether Government will lay on the Table of the House a copy of the orders of Government in force with regard to this matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Government have issued instructions to railway administrations to discourage the sale at their bookstalls of literature which is of a tendentious nature.

(b) It is regretted that it would not be in the public interest to do so.

ELEPHANTS

242. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of elephants exported from India in 1953; and

(b) the approximate price fetched per elephant?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 28 elephants were exported from April, 1953 to September, 1953. As export of elephants was decontrolled from October, 1953 no separate statistics thereof are available after September, 1953.

(b) Information is not available.

AIRCRAFTS IN THE INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION

243. **Shri Raghaviah:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number and types of aircrafts which are in use in the Indian Airlines Corporation at present?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): 72 Dakotas, 12 Vikings and 3 Sky-masters are in use in the services run by the Indian Airlines Corporation at present.