

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes.

(b) It is not possible to say at present when the Bill will be introduced.

MANGANESE MINES IN MADHYA PRADESH

450. Shri N. A. Borkar: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of manganese mines operating in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of manganese mines which have been closed down; and

(c) the number of labourers thrown out of employment due to the closure of these mines?

The Minister of Labour (Shri K. K. Desai): (a) The number of mines working at the end of 1953 was 264.

(b) 87 in 1954.

(c) About 16,000, according to the employment figures for 1953.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN MANIPUR

451. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the programme of road construction for the State of Manipur under the Five Year Plan;

(b) the mileage of roads in Manipur so far constructed and the mileage under construction since the operation of the Five Year Plan; and

(c) the names of roads to be constructed during the remaining period of the Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (c). A statement containing the required information is attached. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 14].

(b) Mileage improved 108. Mileage under improvement 114. Mileage of new roads under construction 49.

SALEM-BANGALORE RAIL LINK

452. Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the construction of a Railway line linking Salem and Bangalore; and

(b) if so, at what stage the proposal is at present?

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

(b) The operating advantages to be derived by the proposed Metre Gauge link are under investigation.

POST OFFICES IN INDIA

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

(a) the number of Post Offices, rural and urban in the country in 1953-54;

(b) the number of Post Offices proposed to be opened in 1954-55 in rural and urban areas, respectively, State-wise;

(c) the number of rural Post Offices which were doing Savings Bank business in 1953-54; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to entrust more rural Post Offices with the Savings Bank business?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) On 31st March, 1954 there were 6,179 urban and 39,728 rural Post Offices in India.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and a statement will be placed on the Table of the House shortly.

(d) Savings Bank facilities are provided in rural Post Offices as and when circumstances permit.

WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SCHEME FOR PUNJAB

454. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have submitted any scheme