

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No. Eight Scheduled Caste candidates were recruited on the Eastern Railway. None of the scheduled caste candidates nominated by the Employment Exchanges at Nagpur and Amraoti appeared for selection on the Central Railway.

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727. Shri N. A. Borkar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to link the Bhandara town by a railway line with the Bhandara Road in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the survey of the proposed line has been completed;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the people of Bhandara Town in this connection; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Investigations revealed that the only reasonable way of dealing with the position was to improve the existing bus services and to provide a really efficient goods and passenger road motor service between Bhandara Road Station and Bhandara Town.

EXPERIMENTAL POST OFFICES

728. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Experimental Post Offices, Telegraph Offices and

Telephone Exchange proposed to be opened in 1954-55 in the State of the Punjab; and

(b) whether the telephone lines of the erstwhile States in the Punjab have been integrated into the main system of the Indian Union and thrown open for public use?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a)—

Post Offices	96
Telegraph Offices	27
Telephone Exchanges	7

(b) All the ex-State telephone systems in Punjab have been connected to general trunk network and are open for public use except Sundarnagar exchange which is used solely for administrative purposes by the Himachal Pradesh Government.

FANS FOR THIRD CLASS COACHES

729. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of third class coaches fitted with electric fans during the year 1953-54; and

(b) what is the plan for the current year?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 1145.

(b) 1113 coaches are expected to be fitted during 1954-55.

नये बन्दरगाह

७३०. सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि आजकल भारत में कौन-कौन से नये बन्दरगाह उन्नत किये जा रहे हैं ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Kandla is being developed into a major port, but apart from this, no new ports are being developed in India at present.