

(c) whether Government are aware that majority of the lepers in the colonies are from the Tamenlong Sub-Division; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the spread of this disease there?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Post Offices in Manipur

339. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of the Branch Post Offices opened in Manipur so far since 1952?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): 41 during the period 1-4-1952 to 31-7-1955.

Prices of Rice in Imphal

340. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the rates at which paddy and rice are sold at present at Imphal; and

(b) the measures adopted by Government to ensure that the paddy growers fetch a fair or an economic price.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Telegraph Office (B'npur)

301. Shri Subodh Hasda: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a proposal for the setting up of a telegraph office at Binpur in Midnapore District, West Bengal; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be opened?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). No proposal was received. The

possibility of opening the telegraph office was, however, examined in the context of the present policy to provide telegraph facilities at Thana Stations in States without Tehsils. As the scheme involves heavy loss, it has been postponed for consideration next year.

Scheduled Tribes

342. Shri Subodh Hasda: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees belonging to Scheduled Tribes employed in the different grades in the Eastern Railway at present:

(b) whether Government have fixed any quota for the Scheduled Tribes for employment in this Railway; and

(c) if so, whether the quota for 1954 has been filled up?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Total as on 1-1-1955.

Class I—
Class II—
Class III 236
Class IV 5361.

(b) Yes. In vacancies filled by direct recruitment in Class I, II and III posts the scale of pay of which rises upto Rs. 300/- p. m. or more—5%. In vacancies filled by direct recruitment in Class III posts the scale of pay of which does not rise upto Rs. 300/- and all Class IV posts—14 per cent.

(c) Complete information for the whole year is not yet available. It is being collected and when ready will be placed on the Table of the House.

Dock Workers Union—Calcutta Port

343. Shri Subodh Hasda: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dock Workers Union of Calcutta Port have submitted any Memorandum to the Government of India for an increase in wages; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.