

Ganga Brahmaputra Water Transport

473. **Shri Anrudha Sinha** : Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an experimental pilot service on the Ganga Brahmaputra rivers will be launched soon;

(b) whether boats will carry only cargo or passengers as well;

(c) by what date the service will commence;

(d) whether it would be an all-season traffic ; and

(e) to what extent it will relieve the congestion on Railways both in respect of goods and passenger traffic ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) Yes, on the Upper Ganga between Patna and Allahabad.

(b) Only cargo will be carried.

(c) Tenders for the construction and supply of the craft have been received. The service is expected to be put into operation during 1956.

(d) Yes, except for one or two months of the dry season.

(e) The project is an experimental one designed to test the technical feasibility of shallow draft operation. The assessment of traffic capacity will come later.

Post Masters

474. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury** : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of Post Offices in West Bengal where teachers are working as Post masters at present ?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar) : 448 Extra Departmental Post Offices in West Bengal are in the charge of teachers.

यात्रियों को सुविधायें

४७५. **श्री अनिरुद्ध सिंह** : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पूर्वोक्त रेलवे के सकरी और जयनगर स्टेशनों के बीच किन किन स्टेशनों पर तृतीय श्रेणी के यात्रियों के लिये मुसाफिर खाने और उच्च श्रेणी के यात्रियों के लिये प्रतीक्षालय नहीं है ;

(ख) उनमें से किन किन स्टेशनों पर न तो मुसाफिरखाना ही है और न प्रतीक्षालय ही है ; और

(ग) रेलवे प्रशासन उन स्टेशनों पर इन सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था कब तक करेगा ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन उपमंत्री (श्री अलगेसन) : (क) और (ख) सकरी मधुबनी और जयनगर स्टेशनों पर तीसरे दर्जे के यात्रियों के लिये मुसाफिरखाने हैं । सकरी और जयनगर के बीच पन्डौल, राजनगर और खजौली तीन स्टेशनों पर स्टेशन की इमारत का एक हिस्सा मुसाफिरखाने के काम में लाया जाता है ।

पन्डौल और खजौली को छोड़ कर सभी स्टेशनों पर ऊंचे दर्जे के यात्रियों के लिये प्रतीक्षालय हैं ।

(ग) १९५५-५६ में मधुबनी में ऊंचे दर्जे का एक अलग जनाना प्रतीक्षालय बनाने का विचार है । इस सम्बन्ध में इस समय कोई और काम करने का विचार नहीं है ।

Hoshiarpur District Post-Offices

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

(a) the total number of post offices operating in the Hoshiarpur District in Punjab;

(b) the number of post offices opened there during 1954-55 on an experimental basis ; and

(c) the names of these post offices that will be made permanent ?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar) : (a) 352.

(b) 7.

(c) An experimental post office is made permanent only when its annual loss amounts to Rs. 240/- or less. It cannot be said at the start which post offices will ultimately be made permanent.

Kangra Post- Offices

477. **Shri D. C. Sharma** : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state ;

(a) the total number of post offices operating in Kangra District in the Punjab ;

(b) the number of post offices opened there during 1954-55 on an experimental basis ; and

(c) the names of these post offices that will be made permanent ?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar) : (a) 314.

(b) 23.

(c) Experimental post offices are made permanent only when their annual loss amounts to Rs. 240/- or less. It cannot be said at the start which post offices will ultimately be made permanent.

Crop Insurance Scheme

478. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the progress made in regard to the Crop Insurance Scheme during 1954-55 ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : The pilot scheme of crop insurance has not been implemented owing to the unwillingness of the State Governments concerned to share the expenditure involved therein mainly on financial grounds. The methods of crop insurance adopted by different countries were, however, studied in 1954 by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations with a view to examine the possibility of their being extended to under-developed countries and a paper thereon was prepared by that Organisation, and discussed with Experts of various countries on the subject. On receipt of final proposals, from the Food & Agriculture Organisation, the matter will be reconsidered by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Rural Water Supply Scheme in Andhra

479. Shri C. R. Chowdary : Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state (a) Whether the Andhra State Government has submitted any schemes for water supply and drainage in Municipal and rural areas to be included in the Second Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the nature of the schemes ; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof ?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar) : (a) Yes.

(b) *Rural areas* ;

Construction of wells and house latrins in groups of villages constituted into units.

Urban areas

(i) Continuance of some of the Water Supply and Drainage Schemes started in the First Plan.

(ii) Taking up of two new schemes—one for water supply and the other for Drainage

(c) Urban Schemes . . . Rs. 328.0 lakhs
Rural Schemes . . . Rs. 221.0 lakhs

Postal Services

480. Shri Ibrahim : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of cities in which Post and Telegraph Offices remain open :

(1) till 9 P.M.

(2) day and night on all working days as well as on Sundays and other holidays ?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar) : (1) 23 post offices in 15 cities are kept open upto 8.30 P.M. on all week days including Sundays but excluding post office holidays which are about 16 in a year. As regards telegraph offices 1697 offices (i.e. Departmental Telegraph Offices, Combined Offices & Licensed Telegraph Offices) are kept open upto 9 P.M. on all working days, Sundays and holidays.

(2) No post office works day and night. 1067 Telegraph Offices are kept open day and night on working days, and 1038 Telegraph Offices are kept open day and night on Sundays and telegraph holidays.

Railway Accidents

481. Shri Ibrahim : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway accidents on the North Eastern Railway during 1954-55 ;

(b) the number of deaths and persons injured ; and

(c) the amount of compensation paid ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) 500