

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): 16 Engineers were trained during 1955 in the Certificate Course in Water Supply and Sanitation at the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta. There is no course exclusively for village water supply.

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS

2184. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone connections in Delhi; and

(b) the number of applications for connection that are pending?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) On 10-5-56 the number of main telephone connections in Old Delhi was 4,034 and the number of extensions including P.B.X. extensions was 1,897.

(b) There were 615 applications under 'Own Your Telephone' Scheme and 1,780 under "exempted categories."

AIR TRAFFIC

2185. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an increase in the Air Traffic both scheduled and non-scheduled during 1955; and

(b) total number of passengers flown by the Indian Air Corporations during latter half of 1955?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total number of passengers flown by the Air India International and Indian Airlines Corporation during the period 1-7-1955 to 31-12-1955 was 28,891 and 2,34,942 respectively.

TIMBER

2186. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of timber exploited for the manufacture of Railway Sleepers both by Government and non-official agencies separately, from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands since 1951-52;

(b) whether it is not a fact that there are ten kinds of hard wood available in the islands which may be used as sleepers;

(c) if so, whether all these varieties are being exploited for the purpose; and

(d) whether seasoning was necessary to use them as sleepers?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) The information is given below:—

Total quantity of timber extracted

Year	By Government		By non-official agency	
	other species tons	Gurjan tons	other species tons	Gurjan tons
1951-52	42,059	15,933	9,980	4,557
1952-53	36,420	13,066		
1953-54	36,671	11,074	10,043	5,712
1954-55	47,291	18,916	14,105	9,386

(b) It is reported that there are 23 species which may be used as sleepers.

(c) Only one specie, viz., Gurjan, is exploited for use as sleepers because there is very little demand for this specie as sawn timber other than

for use as sleepers. The other species which are not available in such abundance have a high market value for other purposes and it is not considered financially justifiable to use these for sleepers.