

(ii) Air-India International Corporation.—1,24,951.

Non-Delivery of Insured Cover

1427. { Shri Warior:
Shri Kodiyan:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a letter appearing in the Statesman, Delhi on the 1st August, 1961 regarding non-delivery of an Insured Cover No. A-673 of the Calcutta G.P.O. on 30th May, 1960;

(b) if so, steps taken to investigate during the last one year;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken now in the matter; and

(d) how long will it take to decide the matter?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Departmental investigation was taken up in June, 1960 immediately on receipt of complaint about the non-delivery of the article. It was suspected that Shri Kirodimal, postman, Sambhar Lake had misappropriated the article after forging the signature of the addressee on the delivery receipt. The case was therefore reported, in the first instance, to the local police and later on, to the Special Police Establishment, Jaipur. The case has since been challenged in the Court of the Special Judge, Jaipur and is now subjudice. The Superintendent, S.P.E. Jaipur, who was not in favour of settlement of the claim in respect of the insured letter till the case was decided by the Court, has since been persuaded to give his concurrence. Departmental proceedings have also been initiated against the postman.

(c) The Post Master-General Calcutta has issued sanction for the settlement of the claim.

(d) Does not arise.

Communications in Border Areas of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

1428. Shri Birendra Bahadur Singhji: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Madhya Pradesh have demanded financial assistance from the Union Government for the development of communications in the border areas of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the amount demanded; and

(c) details of assistance given?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). Yes. Financial assistance equal to one-third of the cost of constructing a bridge over the Chambal river and one-half of the cost of a bridge over the Yamuna river on the Bhind-Ctawah road, estimated to cost Rs. 75 lakhs and Rs. 35 lakhs, respectively, has been sought. The proposal is being examined in consultation with the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute, Chingleput, Madras

1429. { Shri Tangamani:
Shri Kunhan:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute, Chingleput, Madras is given additional aid this year;

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

(c) the nature of research and the number of patients treated in the said Institute?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). As against a provision of Rs. 5 lakhs during 1960-61, a provision of Rs. 8 lakhs has been made for the year 1961-62.

(c) The Institute is at present engaged on (1) therapeutic research on some newer remedies for leprosy and on some indigenous drugs, (2) Investigation on the prophylactic value of sulphones in healthy contacts of leprosy patients and (3) long term investigation of the evolution of the disease in children.

The number of inpatients treated in the attached hospitals annually is approximately 1400 and the average number of outpatients given treatment annually is 5,000 approximately.

Introduction of Rail Coaches on Ex-S.I.R. Section

1430. { **Shri Tangamani:**
Shri Kunhan:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce more rail coaches in the Ex-S.I.R. Section of Southern Railway;

(b) how many of such Rail coaches are running in this sector at present;

(c) whether it is a fact that the 2 Rail coaches between Nidamangalam Junction, and Mannargudi are old and rickety; and

(d) if so, the steps taken for replacing them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fourteen.

(c) and (d). They are old but not rickety. It is proposed to replace

these coaches during the Third Plan period.

Telecommunication Training Centre at Menambakkam

1431. { **Shri Tangamani:**
Shri Kunhan:

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a hostel attached to the Telecommunication Training Centre at Menambakkam, Madras;

(b) if not the reasons for the same; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to build a hostel in the same way as in Jabbalpur?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):

(a) and (b). No hostel facilities are provided at this Training Centre owing to lack of necessary accommodation.

(c) This is under consideration.

Raw Jute

1432. Shri Prabhat Kar: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding the availability of raw jute this year;

(b) whether Government have decided to fix any minimum price for the raw jute; and

(c) if so, what is the price?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) It is too early to make any reliable assessment about the availability of raw jute in this season.

(b) No Sir. Necessary powers under the Essential Commodities Act have, however, been assumed by the Government.