

Permanent Indus Commission have been held. The Commission has also conducted ten inspection tours of works and sites in the Indus Basin in India and in Pakistan.

Housing Accommodation for P. & T. Staff, Bikaner

141. Shri Karni Singhji: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is great hardship experienced by the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in securing suitable housing accommodation in Bikaner at reasonable rent;

(b) whether there was once a proposal to have a Posts and Telegraphs Department Colony at Bikaner;

(c) if so, at what stage is the proposal at present; and

(d) when the same is likely to be implemented?

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

(a) to (d). The construction of ten units of quarters is nearing completion. A proposal for acquiring one acre of land has been approved and construction will be taken up as soon as land becomes available.

Travel Agents

142. Shri P. C. Deb: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1177 given on the 4th December, 1961 and state:

(a) the details of the applications received by Government for recognition of Travel Agents; and

(b) the decision taken in each case?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). In all fifty-four applications for recognition as Travel Agents have been received. The applications are being

scrutinised and no final decision has yet been taken in the matter.

Minor Irrigation Schemes in Tripura

143. Shri Bangshi Thakur: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper assessment has been made to implement the minor irrigation schemes in Tripura during the Third Plan period both in plain and Tillaland; and

(b) if so, details thereof, sub-division-wise?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). Yes. A statement showing sub-division-wise details of the Schemes already investigated and under execution is laid on the Table [See Appendix I, annexure No. 36].

Murder on Train on Grand Chord

144. Dr. Samantsinhar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any clue could be found out regarding the man murdered in the evening train on the Grand Chord on the 25th December, 1961;

(b) what is the progress of investigation; and

(c) what steps have been taken for the safety of the passengers particularly on that line and elsewhere on other railways after this daring instance?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): Presumably the Hon. Member is referring to the incident in which 4 persons lost their lives, while travelling by 9 Up Doon Express between December 29 and 30, 1961, on the Howrah-Moghalsarai Grand Chord Section of the Eastern Railway. The required information is as follows:—

(a) and (b). Yes Sir. Police investigations have so far resulted in the arrest of 3 criminals responsible for