

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The negotiations have not been finalised so far.

Ukai Project

246. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 425 on the 11th August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the report on the investigations of the Ukai Project sent by the Government of Gujarat has since been considered; and

(b) if so, whether it has been sanctioned?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). Ukai Project has since been approved by the Government of India.

Patients suffering from life-long diseases

247. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government do not take the liability to treat persons suffering from life-long diseases after giving treatment for three months and the patients have to purchase costly medicines from the market after that period;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remove this handicap and change the rules in this regard?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No. However, in the case of patients suffering from Diabetes, refund in respect of cost of 'Insulin' is not allowed except in cases where it is prescribed during the initial stage of the disease, i.e., for the first three months after the first detection of Diabetes or when the patient develops some complications and is hospitalised:

(b) It has been considered that injection of Insulin is not a cure and

often it is necessary for very long periods, and for the patient's lifetime. Free Insulin treatment beyond the stipulated period of three months is not therefore allowed for reimbursement.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Traffic Problem in the Capital

248. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that traffic problem in the capital is becoming increasingly unmanageable day by day; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the situation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The required information is given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 8].

Accommodation in Departmental Telegraph Office

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the inadequacy of accommodation at the present Departmental Telegraph Office, Bikaner and the consequential inefficiency in its working; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to improve the efficiency and to provide better hygienic working conditions for the Staff?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) The telegraph office building is a new one, constructed in the year 1958 and provides for accommodation as anticipated then. Consequent on the growth of the office, however, additional accommodation is now felt necessary.

(b) A proposal for extension of the building is under consideration.

'Quick Transit Service' Between Mirzapur and Howrah

250. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway has introduced a "Quick Transit Service" between Mirzapur and Howrah;

(b) if so, what specific arrangements have been made to operate this service; and

(c) whether similar services are proposed to be introduced between other main production centres and export centres?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, from Mirzapur to Howrah.

(b) The Quick Transit Service Ex-Mirzapur to Howrah has been introduced both for "Wagon loads" and "Smalls", with effect from 1st February, 1962, as an experimental measure for six months, to operate only once a week i.e., on Thursday. The overall transit time fixed is 5 days excluding the day of booking. Arrangement has been made to clear Quick Transit Service traffic booked Ex. Mirzapur by a through train namely Eastern Arrow Special, already running between Ghaziabad and Howrah.

(c) Quick Transit Services are already in force over the Indian Railways between more than two hundred and fifty pairs of stations, including important trading centres, such as Bombay-Delhi, Bombay-Howrah, Bombay-Ahmedabad, Bombay-Madras Shalimar-Madras, Howrah-Delhi, Howrah-Kanpur and Madras-Delhi.

Railways have also instructions to extend Quick Transit Service between more pairs of stations as is feasible.

Service Cooperative Societies

251. Dr. Samantsinhar: Will the Minister of Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any probe has been made by the Reserve Bank of India

at the instance of the Central Government on the activities of the service co-operative societies;

(b) if so, what are the findings; and

(c) whether it is a fact that service Cooperative Societies in the agricultural field would be diverted only to the industrial sector?

The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This part of the question is not clear. Service co-operatives are mainly intended to provide supplies, services and credit to cultivating families. Where there is sufficient concentration of artisans, they are being organised into separate functional societies. It is not intended to divert service co-operatives to the industrial sector.

Out-Agency at Tamluk on S.E. Railway

252. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the out-agency at Tamluk on South Eastern Railway has been closed;

(b) if so, what are the reasons;

(c) when the out-agency is going to be re-opened; and

(d) when the out-agency at Ghatal also is going to be opened?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). The working of Tamluk Out-agency has been temporarily suspended since 20th December, 1961, due to serious irregularities committed by the contractor.

(c) Re-opening of the Out-Agency will be considered on completion of necessary enquiries which are in progress.

(d) Necessary formalities for opening the Out-Agency at Ghatal are