

(c) whether Government have received and considered any scheme in this respect for expansion of dry dock facilities?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2542/64].

Modernisation of Postal Services

*620. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the pilot studies for modernisation of postal services; and

(b) when they are likely to be finalised and implemented?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri Bhagavati): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Since the techniques as well as the equipment employed in the postal services are always undergoing improvement, this must necessarily be a continuous process.

STATEMENT

Particulars of mechanical aids	Present position relating to their introduction
1	2
(a) Slot machines for vending postal stationery	Consequent on the successful conclusion of the pilot studies, it is proposed to install to begin with 290 slot machines for vending postal stationery. A majority of these is likely to be produced indigenously.
(b) Slot machines for vending postage stamps	One slot machine capable of dispensing 5 nP postage stamps has been found to function successfully even under conditions of high humidity. The feasibility of large scale production of the stamp rolls required for such machines is under examination.
(c) Coin changers	100 coin changers of indigenous manufacture are being brought into use mostly in the bigger post offices in India.
(d) Stamp emitters	The prototypes required for experimental purposes are still awaited from the manufacturers.
(e) Machine to facilitate the booking of parcels	Before the machine imported for this purpose is put on trial, the changes involved in the accounting procedure have to be finalised. This is being done.
(f) Machines to facilitate booking of money orders.	The question of evolving a suitable machine is under consideration.
(g) Stamp cancelling machines.	A prototype manufactured indigenously has been put on field trial. 183 imported machines are already in use.
(h) Bundling machines.	Six bundling machines are being imported from abroad. One imported machine is already in use.
(i) Machine for cleaning date stamps & seals	A suitable prototype is being evolved.

1

2

- (j) Self indicating weighting scales. }
 (k) Adrema printing machine }
 (l) Numbering machines }
 (m) Battery driven trucks
 (n) Conveyors

Standards have been laid down for their large scale introduction.

Three trucks required for experimental purposes are being imported from abroad.

A conveyor system has been successfully installed at Delhi Air Sorting Office. Schemes to extend the use of conveyors progressively for the handling of mails in the larger offices are under consideration.

Incentive for Research in Agriculture

*622. **Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has taken a decision to award the Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Memorial Prizes to those who have outstanding research in the field of agriculture and allied subjects; and

(b) if so, whether agricultural extension has been included in the list?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

Export of Sugar

*627. { **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri Bade:
Shri R. Barua:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of sugar to be exported during the current financial year in respect of which agreements have already been entered into; and

(b) whether in view of the shortage of sugar in the country, precautions will be taken to export less sugar?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Contracts for export of 2.00 lakh tonnes of sugar

have so far been signed for export during 1964.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Special Jet Allowance

*628. { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Maheswar Naik:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association had recently demanded grant of special jet allowance to those pilots who fly the jets and;

(b) if so, Government's decision thereon?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Mohiuddin):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of meetings were held between the Management of the Indian Airlines and representatives of the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association as a result of which a settlement has been reached and also approved by the Board of the Corporation at their meeting held on 12th March, 1964. Formal proposals in this regard from the Corporation are awaited by the Government.

Loans to Agriculturists

*629. { **Shri Maheswar Naik:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Community