

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Water purification plants have been provided at Suratgarh, Sarupsar, Mohan Nagar, Raisingh Nagar, Gaj-singhpur, Sri Karanpur and Sri Ganga Nagar on the Canal Loop line, Northern Railway.

(b) Yes.

Telephone Connections

295. Shri Karni Singhji: Will the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for grant of telephone connections from the Bikaner and Ganganagar Exchanges, Rajasthan, upto 31st December, 1963; and

(b) the steps being taken to expedite the grant of these connections?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri Bhagavati): (a) Bikaner 50.

Ganganagar 170.

(b) Steps have been taken to expand the capacity of the existing exchanges and this work is being expedited.

P. and T. Colony, Bikaner

296. Shri Karni Singhji: Will the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 370 on the 2nd March, 1963 and state the progress since made in regard to the construction of quarters in the Posts and Telegraphs colony in Bikaner, Rajasthan?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri Bhagavati): A site has been selected and is being acquired.

Afforestation

297. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a plan or at least a blueprint for methodical and systematic afforestation; and

(b) if so, the broad outline thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). "Forests" being a State subject the Working Plans for afforestation are prepared by the State Governments, and in the case centrally administered areas, by the Administrations of the concerned areas. The proposed Centrally sponsored project "Pre-investment Survey of Forest Resources" may, when implemented, provide the basis for preparation of a systematic Plan in the States (Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Kerala, Mysore and Maharashtra) to be covered by it.

Railway Saloons for Officials

298. Shri U. M. Trivedi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of saloons on the Indian Railways meant for Railway officials;

(b) the total capital outlay on these saloons; and

(c) the recurring expenditure in supplying linen and crockery to these saloons?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) There are no saloons meant for Railway Officials. There are, however, Inspection Carriages meant for use by railway officers while on tour. The number of such Inspection Carriages gauge-wise is as under:—

Broad Gauge	..	477
Metre Gauge	..	429
Narrow Gauge	..	42

TOTAL: 948