

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Copies of the representation made to the Delhi State authorities have been received.

(b) the representation demanded construction of a Dhobi Colony, abolition of licence fee and reduction of existing water rate.

(c) the matter is under the consideration of the Delhi State Government.

FOOD POLICY

***490. Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food policy for 1955 has been framed by Government;

(b) if so, the nature thereof;

(c) whether any wheat reserve is to be created;

(d) if so, the quantity thereof; and (e) the sources from which it will be procured?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (e). The food supply position in the country is quite satisfactory at present. Rice and coarse grains have already been completely decontrolled, and it is proposed to continue the present policy of allowing further relaxations in the controls on wheat by creating new or extending existing free wheat zones.

There is no question now of importing rice or coarse grains. Governments have in fact allowed export of rice.

It is proposed to import wheat partly for current consumption and partly for Central Reserve. It is, however, difficult to say at this stage what quantity of wheat we shall be able to put aside in the Central Reserve and from which precise sources we shall be able to import wheat.

रैल के डिब्बों का कारखाना, अजमेर

***४९५ श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** क्या रैलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अजमेर के रैल के डिब्बे तथा बेंगल के कारखाने में १९५४ में कितने माल

डिब्बों और सवारी डिब्बों को मरम्मत की गई ;

(ख) उसी काल में वहां पर कितने नये माल डिब्बे और सवारी डिब्बे तैयार किये गये ;

(ग) ये माल डिब्बे किन श्रेणियों के हैं ; और

(घ) प्रत्येक श्रेणी के कितने डिब्बे हैं ?

रैलवे तथा परिवहन मंत्री के सभासद (श्री शाहनवाज खां) : (क) से (घ). एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है [दीर्घ परीक्षा १, अनुबन्ध संख्या २३].

FOREIGN TOURISTS

***496. Chaudhuri Muhammed Shafiq:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during the year 1954 with separate figures for each country; and

(b) the number of tourist guides employed by Government?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan) (a) A statement is placed on the table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix III, annexure No. 34.]

(b) Seven.

BORDER ROAD (PUNJAB)

***497. Sardar Akarpuri:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to lay a metalled road along the border of the Punjab; and

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and

(b) The Government of India do not propose to construct any such road. The matter is primarily the concern of the State Government.

POSTAL EMPLOYEES IN AJMER

*498. **Pandit, M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of postmen attached to the Ajmer Head Post Office;

(b) the number of zones in which they work;

(c) whether it is a fact that only one postman is deputed to distribute both the 'Daks' of a day, with the result that the public receive their letters at late hours; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 57 postmen including 7 leave reserve postmen.

(b) 24 beats in each delivery.

(c) No postman is asked to attend to both the deliveries. In exceptional circumstances, however, when there is heavy absenteeism, one postman is asked to attend to the delivery work of his adjacent beat also.

(d) The question does not arise.

नये डाक टिकट बेचने वाले डाकघर

*499. **सठ गोविन्द्य दास :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार एंसे डाकघरों की संख्या बढ़ाने का विचार कर रही है जो नये डाक टिकटों को उनके जारी किये जाने के बाद, आरम्भ के कुछ दिनों में बेचते हैं ?

संचार उपमंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर): नये प्रचलित किये गये डाक टिकट सदा ही सब डाकघरों में भेजे दिये जाते हैं। केवल दो अवसरों पर ही समय के अभाव के कारण स्मारक-टिकटों का प्रचलन सीमित रह गया और सार्व कार्यालयों में इनका वितरण नहीं किया जा सका।

खाद्यान्नों के भावों में गिरावट

*500. **श्री भागवत भा आजाद :** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जिन स्थानों पर भाव बहुत अधिक गिर गये हैं, वहाँ पर किसानों को सहायता देने के लिये सरकार ने अभी तक भिन्न भिन्न प्रकार का मोटा अनाज कितनी मात्रा में खरीदा है ?

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री ए० पी० जैन): राज्य सरकारों से पूछ ताछ की जा रही है और शीघ्र ही एक विवरण सभा की पटल पर रखा जायेगा।

PROMULGATION OF FOODGRAINS CONTROL ORDER

*501. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government of West Bengal consulted the Government of India before promulgating the recent Foodgrains Control Order?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Yes, Sir.

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES OF WATER

*502. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two Russian experts are touring the country examining the medicinal properties of waters, with a view to establishing spas in this country; and

(b) if so, what is the result of their labours?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Two Russian experts toured the country from 1st January to 6th February 1955 and did visit two places in connection with the examination of mineral springs.

(b) A report containing the views of the two Russian experts was received on 3rd February, 1955 and is under examination.