

date are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No 43.]

POST OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS OF TRIPURA

488. Shri Dasaratha Deb: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many post offices are there in the rural areas of Tripura?

(b) How much time does it take for postal articles to reach Dharmanagar and Sabsoom from Agartala?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 8.

(b) Mails leaving Agartala at 7 A.M.

reach Dharmanagar at 12 noon on the 3rd day and those for Sabsoom leaving at 12 noon reach there at 5 P.M. on the 3rd day.	}	Total time 53 hours.
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AGARTALA-UDAIPUR AND AGARTALA-SIDHAI ROADS

489. Shri Dasaratha Deb: (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state how many accidents have taken place on the Agartala-Udaipur and Agartala-Sidhai Roads in Tripura in August and September, 1952?

(b) Are the above roads certified for heavy vehicular traffic?

(c) If not, how are vehicles allowed to pass on them?

(d) Are the roads under process of construction and if so, when did the construction begin?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) One on each road.

(b) No. The roads are classed as fair weather roads suitable for Class 9 traffic which includes the ordinary 5 ton lorry.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No. These are existing roads.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS

490. Shri Telkikar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the passenger miles per route mile per day for broad gauge in the year 1951-52 (in class I Railways) in India;

(b) what is the proportion of the density of passengers in 1951-52 to that of 1940-41; and

(c) the proportion of the number of railway carriages used in 1951-52 to that used in 1940-41?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 4,524.

(b) 280:100.

(c) 104:100.

LIGHTSHIPS

491. Shri Telkikar: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any lightships owned by the Government of India; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, where are those used?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The Government of India own two lightships. These are used in the Saurashtra-Kutch Lighthouse District. One is located at latitude 21 degrees 43'N longitude 72 degrees 18'E and the other at latitude 21 degrees 46'N longitude 72 degrees 15'E.

SINKING OF TUBE-WELLS IN RAJASTHAN

492. Dr. Jata-vir: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Rajasthan have launched a programme of sinking tube-wells;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have sanctioned any amount to the Rajasthan Government either by way of grant or loan;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what amount has so far been sanctioned;

(d) how much progress has been made in the direction of sinking of tube-wells; and

(e) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, whether the Central Government propose to sanction grant or loan to the Rajasthan Government in the near future for the sinking of tube-wells?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) A loan of Rs. 2,25,000 has been sanctioned during 1952-53.

(d) Work has commenced only recently and no progress has been reported so far.

(e) Does not arise.

MINIMUM WAGES ACT

493. Shri Raghuramaiah: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minimum Wages Act has been brought into force in Madras State; and

(b) if not, whether the Madras Government have given any reasons for the non-enforcement?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Minimum rates of wages have been fixed in the Madras State in respect of all employments included in Part I of the Schedule appended to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. As regards employment in agriculture which is included in Part II of the Schedule minimum rates have not yet been fixed and the matter is under the consideration of the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

डाकघर

४९४. श्री विभूति मिश्र : संवरण मंत्री

यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सर गार २००० और उस से अधिक संयुक्त जनसंख्या वाले गांवों के मुद्रों की सेवा के लिये डाकघर खोलने का विचार कर रही है, और यदि हां तो किस तिथि से ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Yes, subject to availability of Funds, but village with population of 2,000 and over are given first priority. As various combinations of villages are possible and its funds are limited, no such date can, for obvious reasons, be fixed.

METRE GAUGE SYSTEMS

495. Shri P. Subba Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to connect the Metre gauge systems of North and South India between Khandwa and Hingoli to facilitate movement of wagons from North to South and vice versa?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The reply is in affirmative.

TRAIN BETWEEN CALCUTTA AND MADRAS

496. Shri P. Subba Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to run through trains between Calcutta and Puri and Madras via Simbachelom North and Anakapalli avoiding Waltair?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): There is no such proposal.

LITAN-UKHRUL ROAD

497. Shri Rishang Kelshing: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent for the construction of the road between Litan and Ukhrul prior to the integration of the State to the Central Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have abandoned the idea of completing the said road; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Rs. 70,500.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) Does not arise.

MICA MINES

498. Shri K. C. Sodhia: (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether there are any mica mines in Madhya Pradesh and if so, what is their total number and what was their total output during 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(b) What is the total approximate number of labourers employed in mica mines in Madhya Pradesh?

(c) What was the total amount of money provided for welfare work in these mines by the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund during 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(d) What is the composition of the Advisory Committee of the Fund for Madhya Pradesh?

(e) When was this Committee constituted last time?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) There is only one mica mine working in Madhya Pradesh. About 12 cwts. of dressed mica was produced from this mine during the year 1950. There was no production during the year 1951.