

sites for the proposed High Altitude Research Station which would include Astronomical research. A few sites have been recommended provisionally and it has been suggested that observations of sky and seeing conditions should be taken at these places for a sufficiently long interval of time before a final choice is made.

(iii) A number of locations in and around Ujjain were surveyed and it is proposed to collect preliminary observations at Ujjain and at other places around Ujjain, Indore and Bhopal for studying the suitability of the places for starting an Astronomical Observatory.

(iv) No progress has been made in the establishment of Observatories in Universities.

(v) The Ministry of Education have instituted four scholarships tenable at Kodaikanal Observatory and 3 Scholars holding these scholarships are now doing research work there.

(vi) The Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, proposes to establish a planetarium at Calcutta and the Govt. of India is considering the question of a token grant to the Chamber in this connection.

(c) The expenditure incurred in giving effect to specific items recommended by the Board, apart from general developments, some of which have been referred to in item (b), is as follows:

1949-50	Rs. 2,000
1950-51	Rs. 8,000
1951-52	Rs. 46,000

(d) The Standing Advisory Board for Astronomy was first constituted in January 1949 and reconstituted in January 1953. The reconstituted Board differs from the first Board in that it has two additional members, one to represent the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research and another versed in Ancient Indian astronomy.

1 UP MAIL TRAIN (FIRE)

143. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in November 1952, some 3rd class bogies of 1 Up Mail train (N. E. Rly.) caught fire while standing at Muzaffarpur Railway Station platform?

(b) Has any enquiry been made into this and if so, what are the findings?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagasan): (a) No carriage of 1 Up Mail or any other train caught fire in November, 1952 at Muzaffarpur Railway Station. At 4/40 hours on 19-12-1952, however, one third class carriage on 2 Down Mail train caught fire at Muzaffarpur.

(b) A railway Officers joint enquiry was held into this accident. Their finding as well as also that of the Police, is that the fire was the result of petrol, carried with a passenger, having got ignited by either a discarded cigarette butt or lighted match.

POST OFFICES FOR BOMBAY

144. Shri Gidwani: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Deputy Minister of Communications during his recent visit to Bombay stated in a Press Conference on 22nd January, 1953 that thirty more Post Offices were needed there?

(b) Is it a fact that he also stated that owing to the difficulties of getting premises for them, they could not be opened?

(c) If so, are Government aware that Bombay Government has been requisitioning premises for public purposes?

(d) Have the Government of India written to the Bombay Government to requisition premises for opening the Post Offices and if not, why not?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, previously Bombay Government used to requisition buildings for public purposes for the use of the Central Government. But now, under the Constitution of India, only the authorities specially appointed for the purpose can make such requisitions.

(d) Yes, formerly. Now Government of India have to approach the requisitioning authorities direct.

FORBESGANJ-RAJHOPUR RAILWAY LINE

145. Shri L. N. Mishra: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to reply to unstarred question No. 855 asked on the 18th December, 1952 and state what is the result of the investigation for the restoration of Railway line from Forbesganj to Rajhopur via Pratapganj in Bihar?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagasan): An alignment from Forbesganj to Raghopur has been examined and found