

(b) to (d). The works at Beawar station will be taken in hand during the current financial year and completed during the next.

CONTRACTS FOR CARRYING MAILS

436. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total annual amount given to the contractors for hiring vehicles to carry mails?

(b) How many such contractors are now under the Postal Service?

The Minister of Communications (**Shri Jagjivan Ram**): (a) Approximate figures of the annual amount payable to private contractors for the conveyance of mails in their vehicles are as follows:—

Category of Contracts	Annual amount payable in Rupees
(i) Cases where motor vehicles are exclusively used for conveyance of mails	7,02,656
(ii) Cases where mails are conveyed in motor vehicles along with passengers.	18,36,001
(iii) Cases where mails are conveyed in vehicles other than motor vehicles	2,09,564
Total	27,48,221

(b) The number of contractors is not known, but the number of contracts is as follows:—

Category of contracts	Number
(i) Cases where motor vehicles are exclusively used for conveyance of mails.	55
(ii) Cases where mails are conveyed in motor vehicles along with passengers.	1,143
(iii) Cases where mails are conveyed in vehicles other than motor vehicles	144
Total	1,342

In several cases more than one contracts are held by the same contractor.

TOURIST TRAFFIC

437. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what steps Government are taking to develop the tourist Organisation in India?

(b) In how many foreign countries is publicity given to attract large number of tourists to visit India?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Alagesan**):

(a) The Central Government's Tourist Organisation in India at present consists of a Tourist Traffic Branch in the Ministry of Transport, Regional Tourist Offices at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras and small Tourist Information Offices at Agra, Srinagar and Banaras. Besides this, certain officers of certain State Governments have been appointed as Honorary Regional Tourist Officers to help the Central Government in the tourist promotion activities in their respective States. A Central Tourist Traffic Advisory Committee is attached to the Ministry of Transport. Regional Advisory Committees have also been set up at Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta and a similar Advisory Committee is also being constituted at Madras.

The important steps taken by the Government for promotion of foreign tourist traffic include *inter alia* publication of tourist literature relating to all important places of tourist interest, *viz.*, guide books, posters, folders, brochures, picture post-cards, production of models and travel films for non-commercial exhibition, etc., provision of guide services; supply of Tourist Introduction Cards to tourists to ensure quick customs clearance, railway reservation, and accommodation in the dak bungalows. Rules for the recognition of tourist agencies which help the Government in their tourist promotional activities have been framed.

(b) With a view to encouraging tourist traffic from the U.S.A., the Government of India have opened a