

the representatives and the Postal Divisions they represent; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) There is no single Advisory Committee for Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones conjointly for each State but there are separate Committees for P. & T. in each Circle, viz. the Regional P. & T. Advisory Committee and the Telephone Advisory Committee. There are two such Committees functioning in Orissa Circle.

(b) The representation on these Committees is not based on Postal Divisions but is for the Circle as a whole. These represent the State Government, Trade and Commercial interests and Members of Parliament.

(c) In view of what has been stated against (b) above, the question does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

NEW ROADS

616. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land requisitioned so far in Dharwanagar for opening a new road;

(b) the number of families who have already been given compensation; and

(c) the number of those who have still to get compensation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha in due course.

GUINEA-WORM DISEASE

617. { **Shri Bheekha Bhai:**
 { **Shri P. L. Barupal:**

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons suffering from guinea-worm in various States;

(b) the names of the States which are seriously affected; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent the spread of this disease?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Information asked for is not available. A statement showing the number of persons treated for guinea-worm infection in the hospitals and dispensaries of various States from whom information has been received is, however, laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 19.]

(b) The disease is prevalent in the States of Bombay, Madras, Rajasthan, Madhya Bharat, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Hyderabad, and Coorg.

(c) Prevention and control of diseases are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The role of the Central Government is to assist and advise the State Governments and also to promote research. Researches on the evaluation of new remedies in the treatment of guinea-worm were undertaken in Rajasthan under a grant from the Indian Council of Medical Research in 1953. A report on the results obtained is awaited.

The Central Institute of Research in the Indigenous Systems of Medicine, Jamnagar, proposes to undertake, in the very near future, an investigation on guinea-worm in collaboration with the Director, Ayurveda, Saurashtra. Certain medicines which are stated to be of value in the treatment of guinea-worm will also be tested.

The National Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes in rural and urban areas which are being implemented by the State Governments with Central assistance will greatly help to reduce the incidence of this disease.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

618. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the stations where