

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration.

RURAL MAIL DELIVERY SERVICE

1129. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether mails are conveyed in rural areas by cycles also; and

(b) if so, the total number of mileage covered by cycle mail service during 1954?

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

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

POSTAL STAMPS

1130. Shri Kajrolkar: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by Government regarding the stamping of the slogan "Remove Untouchability" on all postal stamps; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

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

(b) The selection of a suitable slogan is under examination.

NEW POST OFFICES

1131. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of post offices opened during the period from January to March, 1955?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):

Rural
2,272

Urban
114

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

1132. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the main functions of the *ad hoc* body constituted by the Local Self Government Ministers' Conference held in June, 1954 at Simla; and

(b) the proposals submitted by this *ad hoc* Body to the Planning Commission in regard to the problems of Rural and Urban Water Supply?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) The *ad hoc* body was set up to assess the needs of the various local bodies in the States for loans and subsidies for important development programmes such as water supply, drainage, etc. and to discuss with the Planning Commission the allocation of Funds for this purpose in the first and second Five Year Plans.

(b) The *ad hoc* Body recommended to the Planning Commission in August, 1954 that a sum of Rs. 50 crores should be provided for the whole country in connection with schemes of water supply, drainage and sullage, during the remaining period of the First Five Year Plan.

भारत-पाकिस्तान रेल यातायात

१९२२. श्री भागवत झा आजाद : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १५ अप्रैल, १९५५ को, कराची में भारत के पुनर्वास मंत्री और पाकिस्तान के संचार मंत्री के बीच हुई बातचीत की समाप्ति के बाद, जारी की गई संयुक्त विज्ञप्ति में भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच जिन चार रेलवे लाइनों की चर्चा की गई उन को फिर से चालू करने पर अनुमानतः कितना व्यय होगा, और

(ख) यह लाइनें यातायात के लिये कब खोली जायेंगी ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन उपमंत्री (श्री अल्लगंजन):

(क) दोनों सरकारों की ओर से जारी की गयी