

(d) Yes, so far as the Railways mentioned in the reply to part (a) of the question are concerned.

(e) Does not arise.

First Five Year Plan

1109. **Shri Krishanacharya Joshi**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total amount spent upto the 30th June, 1955 on the various schemes executed under the First Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : Out of the total amount of Rs. 400 crores allotted for the First Five Year Plan, an expenditure of Rs. 306.17 crores has been actually booked upto the 30th June, 1955.

Facilities for Hindi Learning

1110. **Shri S. C. Samanta** : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post and Telegraph employees who are learning Hindi in Calcutta at present ;

(b) the number of employees who have passed the prescribed examination held by the Hindi Siksha Parishad in recent years (year-wise);

(c) The total amount spent up to date by the department tuition and examination fees, and

(d) whether any start has been made in any other non-Hindi speaking cities in India?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) : (a) 90 P & T employees.

(b) Year Number of employees passed.

1952	Nil
1953	Nil
1954	Nil
1955	7 officials had appeared in the examination held in June, 1955 the result of which is not yet out. It may however be added that 70 officials have passed the examination conducted by the Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti from 1951 to 1955:

(c) Nil.

(d) The question is under consideration.

North Trunk Road, Assam

1111. **Shri K. P. Tripathi** : Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 592 on the 24th August, 1955 and state:

(a) whether the expenditure for surfacing and asphaltting the North Trunk Road of Assam has since been sanctioned;

(b) if so, whether the entire cost will be met by the Central or the State Government will also participate;

(c) when the work will begin; and

(d) whether any priority has been assigned for the execution of this work?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) and (b). A grant of Rs. 53.00 lakhs has been made to the Government of Assam to cover the entire cost of improving the North Trunk Road for the section from Beki River to Sankosh River to the standard of a gravelled road ;

(c) The work is already in progress;

(d) No.

रेलवे ब्राऊट एजेंसियां

११२. **श्री मोतीलाल मालवीय** : क्या रेलवे मंत्री १२ अप्रैल, १९५५ को दिये गये तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या २१६१ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे की विन्ध्य प्रदेश के छत्तरपुर और महाराजपुर में दो ब्राऊट एजेंसियां कब खोली जायेंगी ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन उपमंत्री (श्री अलगेसन) : विन्ध्य प्रदेश सरकार की सलाह से इस पर अभी विचार किया जा रहा है। राज्य सरकार के अन्तिम मुझावों का इतज़ार है।

Medicinal Herbs.

1113. **Shri Hem Raj** : Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that medicinal herbs of high quality exist in the mountains and hills of the Himalayan region in Punjab ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to conduct any research in this regard and afford facilities to the people of the areas for their collection ?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur) : (a) Yes.

(b) A Joint Committee of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is examining this question.