

was 361 and the number proposed for the year 1957-58 is 618.

Ferry Steamer "Sir T. Wynne"

51. **Shri Mahanty:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 936 on the 20th August, 1955; and state what amount Government had received as sale-proceeds by the auctioning of Ferry Steamer "Sir T. Wynne"?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahaswaz Khan): Rs 1,53,000 for the vessel and Rs 6,200 for the cost of the steam coal of board

Foreshore Road, Ernakulam

52. **Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have issued any directions to stop the construction of the Foreshore Road at Ernakulam; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No

(b) Does not arise

Wagon Assembly Work, Visakhapatnam

53. **Shri E. J. Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to part (a) of Starred Question No. 484 on the 28th May, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the wagon assembly work at Visakhapatnam is being done by the Railway Department or entrusted to any contractor; and

(b) if entrusted to any contractor, the terms and conditions of the contract?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahaswaz Khan): (a) Entrusted to a private contractor

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 22].

Air-fields in Tripura

54. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government propose to wind up a number of air-fields in Tripura, including that of Khonai and Belonia?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): The question of abandoning only one airstrip in Tripura, namely, the Belonia airstrip, is under consideration at present. This is not likely to lead to any difficulty as there has been hardly any traffic at this airport and there is no prospect of any traffic developing in the foreseeable future. Moreover there is considerable erosion of the airfield due to a neighbouring river

Postal Deliveries

55. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that even after the opening of so many village post offices, postal deliveries are being delayed for months,

(b) percentage of delayed deliveries State-wise, and

(c) the steps taken so far to mend it?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). No On the contrary the delivery frequencies have increased as is evident from the statement laid on the Table of Lok Sabha

[See Appendix I, annexure No. 23].

(c) Although the delivery frequencies are progressively increasing, yet these are subjected to periodic review to effect further improvements therein