

(b) if so, by what time the telephone system will be extended on this national highway?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) and (b). Telephone facilities exist at all places excepting Rampur, Nethar and Sarahan. Public Call Office facility at Rampur has already been sanctioned and is expected to be provided by the end of March, 1959. Proposals for tele-communication facilities at the remaining two places are being examined and will be sanctioned if found justified.

Transport in Himachal Pradesh

1830. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that there is too much congestion of passenger and goods traffic on the different roads on, which Himachal Pradesh Government Motor Transport services are operating;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the passengers have to waste two to three days even for getting their reservation for their seats;

(c) whether it is a fact that no route permits for private carriers are granted by the Himachal Pradesh Administration; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) There is congestion of passenger traffic at the time of some fairs and festivals in certain parts of Himachal and abnormal rise in goods traffic during the potato season and additional vehicles are hired to clear the congestion

(b) Some inconvenience to passengers is caused sometimes. Efforts are therefore being made to put in more vehicles on the roads

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Transport in Himachal Pradesh

1831. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the fare that is charged by the Himachal Pradesh Transport for Passengers and goods separately on different routes;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Motor Transport Fleet of the Himachal Pradesh Administration is insufficient to cope with the goods and passenger traffic;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Himachal Pradesh Administration engage trucks on 25 per cent commission from private owners; and

(d) if so, whether it is also a fact that the commission has now been enhanced to 37½ per cent?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 78]

(b) The demand for passenger as well as goods transport varies from season to season and the fleet strength is just sufficient for handling the average traffic. During the potato season, which lasts for 6 to 8 weeks, additional vehicles are hired to meet the abnormal demand.

(c) Yes. Some private trucks are engaged for short periods during the Potato and fruits season, when there is a temporary increase in the traffic

(d) No

Repairing of Ships

1832. { Shri Nagi Reddy:
Shri D. V. Rao:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are complaints from Indian firms doing repair work for ships in Calcutta port about the

discriminatory practices of foreign Agency houses in favour of foreign repair firms;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government owned shipping Corporations also prefer non-Indian firms for carrying out repairs to the ships, and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No complaint has been received from Indian firms in this regard

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise

Team of Advisers

1883. Shri S. C. Godsora: Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a team composed of advisers to the Union Ministry of Community Development visited the State of Bihar and

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations submitted by them to the Government?

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) Yes

(b) A copy of the tour notes of the team and the summary record of their discussions with the officers of the State Government are laid on the Table of the House [placed in the Library See Index No. L T 1135/58]

Hingoli-Khandwa Rail Link

**1884. { Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shrimati Parvathi
Krishnan:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state.

(a) when the line between Kanhar-gaon to Shivapur of the Hingoli-Khandwa rail link will be opened for passenger traffic; and

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(b) how many stations on the above section will be interlocked?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) The section is expected to be opened by the end of December 1959

(b) All the nine stations in this section will be interlocked to Standard I

New Flag Station

1885. Ch. Ranbir Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a representation on behalf of the villagers of Bahadurgarh, Sila Kheri, Singhana, Rajhalas Hath, Chhapar and Jaipur of District Sangrur (Punjab) has been received for opening a new flag station between Budha Khera and Safidon station on Panipat—Jind branch line of Northern Railway;

(b) whether it is also a fact that villagers have offered *shram dan* and necessary cash contribution for construction of the flag station, and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b) Yes

(c) The proposal is under detailed investigation.

Railway Siding

1886. Ch. Ranbir Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the cultivators of village Somar Gopalpur and surrounding villages of District Rohtak have requested that a railway siding be provided at Somar Gopalpur station on Delhi-Bhatinda lines to facilitate the transport of sugarcane to the Haryana Sugar Co-operative Factory, Rohtak