

krishna Mission, Bharat Sewak Samaj and various other organisations, is also used.

TRANSMISSION OF LOTTERY TICKETS UNDER BOOK-POST COVERS

*341. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the transmission of lottery tickets under book-post covers has been completely banned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the transmission of such articles was recently interrupted on the initiative of the Railway Mail Service staff; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the book-post packets containing lottery tickets, so detained, have been disposed of?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, with the exception of lottery tickets relating to a State lottery or to a lottery authorised by a State Government.

(b) Yes. Some 40 bags full of book packets containing lottery tickets were interrupted in Delhi Paper Sorting Office in December, 1955 under Rule 45 of the Indian Post Office Rules.

(c) The contents of packets were examined and book packets containing lottery tickets were returned to the sender under Rule 45 of the Indian Post Office Rules and the rest forwarded to the destination.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know how this matter was first discovered?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It was the result of supervision by our officers. If I may point out a specific instance, the Director of R.M.S. visited one of these sorting offices on 27th May 1954 and he found several book-post articles containing these lottery tickets etc. in the course of transmission. He

detected these things and gave suitable directions in the matter.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if any action was taken against persons who tried thus to misuse this privilege of sending book-post?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The only action that we take is that we do not transmit them to the addressess but return them to the senders.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PERMA-NAND: Is the Government aware that a good many Irish Sweepstake tickets are coming into the country and if so through what source they coming in and through what source the money is being remitted?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I know there are many firms and individuals who are dealing in this. I do not like to name them here unless the hon. Member wants. We are exercising a great deal of vigilance in this matter and whenever we come across cases we do everything possible to put stop to them. We intercept and do not transmit them to the addresses; that is the action that we take.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: May I know the exact position about these lottery tickets? Are they prohibited from being sold—these Irish Sweepstake tickets?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: So far as we are concerned, what we are required to do under the relevant rule is that we will not transmit lottery tickets, circulars, advertisements communiques etc., relating to lottery tickets. If we detect them we interrupt them and send them back to the sender.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: I want to know whether they are prohibited from being sold in India or not.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That is a question which I cannot reply. That may be addressed to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

DE. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether for finding out these lottery tickets letters are also opened if they are suspected to contain lottery tickets?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Whenever we suspect that lottery tickets are contained in book post packets or other postal articles, we interrupt them and if they are lottery tickets, circulars or other material connected with them that may come under purview of the definition we sent them back to the senders.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: So far as book-posts are concerned, they are open. I want to know about others. Suppose a registered letter is suspected to contain such lottery tickets, will it be opened?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The question is rather hypothetical. It all depends upon detection whether a registered article or anything else contains lottery tickets or not. If we have reasonable grounds to proceed we do take action.

SHRI S. S. N. TANKHA: If these Irish Sweepstake tickets are not prohibited by the Home Ministry from being sold, how is it then that the Post Office stops their transmission?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I cannot reply on behalf of the Home Ministry offhand but, so far as post office is concerned we have got a rule that we will not encourage the transmission of these lottery tickets by book packets and otherwise.

MERCHANT NAVY LIFEBOAT TRAINING CENTRE

*342. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Merchant Navy Lifeboat Training Centre has recently been established in Bombay;

(b) if so, the nature of the training imparted at that Centre;

(c) (i) the method of selection of the trainees; (ii) the number of trainees who will receive training at a time and (iii) the duration of the training course at that Centre; and

(d) whether Government propose to open more such centres at other places in the country?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Training is imparted in the efficient handling of a lifeboat and the proper use of its equipment.

(c) (i) Trainees are selected in batches from among Merchant Navy seamen above the age of 18 who have served at sea for a period of not less than six months.

(ii) About 15 to 20. (iii) One week.

(d) Yes, at Calcutta.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Is this training being continuously given or it is being given for short periods and then discontinued?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Not continuously. It is given for about one week and it has not been found necessary so far to change it. But if it is considered necessary, refresher courses might also be given.

INTRODUCTION OF A NEW ACCIDENT MEDICAL RELIEF CAR ON THE CENTRAL RAILWAY

*343. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new type of Accident Medical Relief Car has recently been put into service on the Broad Gauge section of the Central Railway;

(b) if so, what are its main features;

(c) what has been the cost of building and equipping it; and