

(a) how much money was spent on the issue of special postage stamps during the last two years in connection with the Republic Day and the Independence Day;

(b) what was the total expenditure involved in producing these stamps together with money paid to artists;

(c) what was the total value of the stamps;

(d) how many of these stamps were sold (i) outside the country, (ii) within India; and

(e) how many still remain unsold and what is the value of these stamps?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a), (b) and (c). No stamps were issued either on the Republic Day or the Independence Day, during those two years. A statement showing particulars of special issues of postage stamps brought out on other occasions during the last two years *viz.* 1951 and 1952 is, however, laid on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 181.]

(d) Separate figures for sales made in India and outside are not available.

(e) Of the three issues of postage stamps mentioned in the statement, the first two *viz.*, the Centenary issue of the Geological Survey of India and the 1st Asian Games commemoratives have been completely sold out. The third *viz.*, the Saint-Poets stamps were issued only in October, 1952 and some of these are still available in post offices. As however, these stamps are in great demand the possibility is that the remaining stocks will be sold out very soon. It is not possible to give the exact figures in respect of the unsold stocks now in hand since these are scattered in post offices all over the country.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: How does the printing of these stamps compare with the cost of printing the ordinary stamps?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Because of special designing etc., there may be a slight difference in the cost of these special stamps.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: How many outside countries ordered these stamps? If there are any statistics, how many Asiatic and how many European countries ordered these stamps?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I don't think there are any statistics pertaining to that because these stamps are being sold by philatelic societies also. They too cannot produce statistics because many of these stamps are sent to their branches outside the country and a good quantity is sold through them to the foreigners.

CONVERSION OF MANGALORE PORT AS A MAJOR PORT

*584. SHRI K. M. RAHMATHULLAH: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether Government are considering any proposals to convert the Mangalore Port into a Major Port; if so, what are those proposals?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): No such proposal is under the consideration of Government.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Is there a proposal to convert it into an all-weather port?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir; there are at present three alternatives that are being considered for this port and these are being examined by the Poona Research Station. Models have been constructed and the research is going on in its preliminary stages.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is it not a fact that the Shipowners' Association has recommended the improvement of these Ports?

MR. CHAIRMAN: "Is it not a fact that the Shipowners' Association has

recommended the improvement of these Ports?"

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir. Those ports at present classified as Minor Ports, are not under the direct charge of the Central Government; it is the State Governments that are in charge.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Is it not a fact that there was a proposal to convert the Port into a Major Port and the Government had conducted a survey?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir, the various State Governments are undertaking surveys of Minor Ports under their charge.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Am I to understand from the hon. Minister that the report of the West Coast Major Ports Committee has been completely dropped or the consideration of it is postponed?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: In fact, that Committee recommended that Mangalore cannot be chosen as a Major Port but Government have not yet taken a decision on that point.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: As a point of correction, Sir, if I am right, the Committee recommended by a majority that Malpe is better than Mangalore and that one of the dissenting Members recommended Mangalore and the consideration of that had been only postponed and not dropped.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That is exactly what I said.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Is it not a fact that in view of the proposed Mangalore-Hassan Line it will be better if Government considered this also?

(No reply.)

FOOD GRAINS FOR MINE EMPLOYEES

*585. SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mine owners in Bihar and West Bengal are obliged to obtain food grains for their employees through pools of their trade organisations and are not permitted individually to purchase such food grains from the market; if so, the reasons therefor, and

(b) whether as a result of such restriction, individual mine owners have to pay for food grains a price higher than the local market price?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) In order to avoid upsetting the market, the position in Bihar and West Bengal has been not to allow large employers of labour to buy in the open market. Recently, however, the Government of Bihar have allowed all mine owners, except the colliery owners, to make their purchases in the open market. The colliery owners have formed themselves into associations to obtain their food requirements from Government. The collieries in the Asansole District of West Bengal too have been allowed to purchase in the open market.

The colliery associations are also now buying Nepal rice in the open market.

(b) It is possible that such mine owners could have secured at a somewhat lower price, part of their requirements, by buying in the local market.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Is Government making it a condition that the mine owners should form themselves into a pool for the purchase of this rice from Government?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: If the question is kindly repeated.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: "Have the Government imposed a condition that the mine owners should form themselves into a pool before they purchase this rice?"

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: We did not impose any condition; but for their own convenience some of the mine owners have formed themselves into some pool.