

way of supplementaries are suggestions for action. If the hon. Minister gives one reply, then Members try to convert him to their own view by arguments, which ought to take place only on a resolution or a separate motion. No answer need be given to the question.

Shri Narasimhan: might explain.....

Mr. Speaker: I have been able to understand him. Next question.

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 144.

Shri Keshava: May I suggest that question No. 152 may be taken up along with question No. 144, as it relates to the same subject?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

Re-organisation of Posts and Telegraphs Circles

*144. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the proposal to re-organise the Posts and Telegraphs Circles consequent upon the re-organisation of States rests;

(b) when the same is likely to be finalised; and

(c) the number of Circles in the country at present and what would be the number after re-organisation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). There are at present thirteen P. & T. Circle Offices including the Postal Circle at Delhi. There is no proposal at present to have a general re-arrangement of Circle boundaries.

P. & T. Administrative Circle in Mysore

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*152. { **Shri Keshava:**
Shri Thimmaiah:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state whether the Central Government have any proposals at all to constitute a Posts and Telegraphs administrative circle for Karnataka or Mysore?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Not at present.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Am I to understand that we have given up the idea of having Circles on linguistic basis?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As a matter of fact, these Circles were never organised on the basis of any provincial boundaries; they were organised on the basis of administrative convenience, depending upon the number of post offices and telegraph offices in a particular area and the work emanating therefrom.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Is it a fact that the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs went into this question and some work was being done about it, but suddenly it was given up?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I might remove one apprehension from the mind of the hon. Member. The question was whether any proposal was under consideration. We have said that at present it is not under consideration. That does not bind us down rigidly to any particular decision. In case a new Circle is necessary on the basis of traffic or the number of post offices, we shall consider the proposition.

Shri Punnoose: Is it not a fact that during the last session of the last Parliament, it was stated in this House from the Government side that reorganisation of posts and telegraphs Circles had been under consideration on the basis of the reorganised States? If so, may I know what has happened to that?

Shri Raj Bahadur: What was stated, if I remember aright—I am speaking from memory—was that it was not necessary that the boundaries of a P. and T. Circle should be coterminous with the boundaries of a State. Maybe that in many cases two States are represented by one Circle or one single Circle represents more than one State.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know the reason for keeping the Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle still in Kurnool and not shifting it to Hyderabad?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I said, the old boundaries of the old Circles continue at present.

Shri Keshava: By what time is the Mysore Circle likely to be constituted?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As and when the matter is taken into consideration and a decision is arrived at.

Shri Radhelal Vyas rose—

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow a discussion on separate Circles here. Next question.

Delhi Electricity Workers

*145. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Electricity Workers of the Distribution Branch went on strike in the middle of April, 1957;

(b) the demands put forward by them;

(c) how far have those been meted out;

(d) the average number of public complaints daily regarding the difficulties caused by the strike; and

(e) whether the supply was suspended in any area?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Re-instatement of Shri Laxmi Narain, ex-meter reader of the Delhi

State Electricity Board who was removed from service by the Board on alleged charges of misconduct.

(c) In accordance with the agreement reached between the Delhi State Electricity Board and the Delhi State Electricity Workers Union, the case of Shri Laxmi Narain has been referred to Shri Sankar Saran, retired Judge of the Allahabad High Court for review.

(d) None.

(e) No, Sir.

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know if the Government had spent some extra money during these strike days?

Shri S. K. Patil: I have no information on this subject except that if the occasion demanded in order that the services should not be interrupted they might have spent. If notice is given I will answer.

Thefts in Calcutta Dock Area

*147. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on account of the lack of co-ordination between Calcutta Port Police, Customs and Port Commissioners, theft is increasing in Calcutta Dock Area amounting to several lakhs per month?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): According to information available co-ordination is maintained between the Police, Customs and Port authorities in the matter of anti-Pilferage measures in the Port of Calcutta. An Anti-Pilferage Committee consisting of representatives of the Calcutta Import Trade Association, the Insurance Companies, the Customs, the Police and the Port Commissioners, reviews the situation once a month and the results are reported to be encouraging. The number of cases of theft in the month of February, 1957, was 86 as against 95 in November, 1956.