

at the broad gauge and metre gauge terminals; and

(c) whether, in view of the experience gained, Government propose to make any changes in the existing zonal areas of the Indian Railways?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The re-grouping of Indian Railways was completed with the formation of the Northern, North Eastern and Eastern Zones on 14th April, 1952.

(b) Detailed information is being collected and will be placed before the House during the Budget Session.

(c) No such proposal is, at present, under consideration.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

*1156. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of employees of the Telegraph Department against whom disciplinary action was taken in 1952-53?

(b) How many of such employees, if any, have been dismissed or suspended under Safeguarding of National Security Rules (1949) during the above period?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) 2,092.

(b) Under the Safeguarding of National Security Rules, 1949, no employee is 'dismissed' or 'suspended'. During 1952-53, one official was retired compulsorily under those rules and three employees were asked to proceed on leave pending completion of proceedings.

DYSENTERY IN MALABAR

*1157. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India sent any medical officer to investigate the causes of incidence and spread of a type of dysentery in Malabar;

(b) whether any report has been received from him; and

(c) if so, what are his findings and whether Government have taken any steps in the matter?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) and (b). An officer of the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor, who was asked to investigate the matter on the spot has submitted a report.

(c) According to the report, the main cause of ill-health in Malabar was malnutrition leading to nutritional Oedema with bowel infections superimposed, largely owing to a deficiency of calories and proteins and B-complex vitamins. Children in the age group—1 to 5 years—were the most affected and almost all the fatal cases were among this group. There were a few cases of dysentery mainly in the older age groups. These cases, however, ran a mild course and there was no mortality among them.

The Government of Madras took prompt action to control the disease by disinfection of water supplies, treatment of cases with sulphaguanidine tablets and distribution of milk powder. The State Government also organised and put into the field a mobile medical unit with necessary staff, equipment and medicines to deal with the situation in the affected areas. Steps were also taken to hospitalise severe cases of nutritional oedema. At the request of the State Government, the Government of India supplied free of cost 250,000 lbs. of skim milk powder, 100,000 tablets of sulphaguanidine and 100,000 multi-vitamin tablets for distribution in the affected area.

SUBSIDISED HOUSING SCHEME FOR MICA WORKERS

*1158. **Shri Namadas:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the answer given to unstarred question No. 940 asked on the 7th April, 1953 and state the progress made in introducing a Subsidised Housing Scheme which was under consideration for the mica workers in Nellore district?