

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I am afraid there are too many Members coughing, and I am unable to follow the question.

**Shri Kelappan:** May I know whether there are any foreign experts among the teachers?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, but very few.

**Shri Kelappan:** How many?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. I am going to the next question.

#### FISHING RIGHTS (AMERICAN AGENCY)

\*591. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any American agency had requested Government for fishing rights in areas en route to the Lacadive Archipelago and the Maldives; and

(b) whether Government have made any effort to exploit these areas for fishing the highly-priced fish like Tuna and Bonito?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) An American agency made an enquiry in 1950 asking for the grant of a licence for Tuna fishing off the South Coast of India. They were asked to make proposals on the principle that Indian nationals would be associated with the venture but no concrete proposals resulted.

(b) Investigations are proposed to be undertaken soon.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** How many miles off the Indian coast do we get these Tuna and Bonito? May I also know whether the Central Government has made a preliminary survey of the area in the sea?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I could not give the mileage beyond which they are available, but I think it requires deep sea fishing to a considerable extent.

I did not hear the second part of the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister requires notice for that question?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware that these two fish, Tuna and Bonito, are very highly priced in America and may I also know whether in a scheme submitted by an American agency there was a proposal for the export of these fish to America?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have not got the details of the American proposal, Sir.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know, Sir, whether the Government of Bombay have requested the Central Government for any assistance on this?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I want notice.

**Shri Damodara Menon:** Is it the policy of the Government to give fishing rights to foreign agencies on the coast of India or to reserve it for Indian nationals?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** As has been clearly indicated in the reply to the question, Sir, it is not our intention to give exclusive rights without securing some advantages.

#### TELE-COMMUNICATION PLANNING SECTION

\*593. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state when the Tele-Communication Planning Section of Post and Telegraph Directorate was constituted?

(b) Have all necessary statistics been collected and tabulated?

(c) How far has the section progressed as regards the expansion of the existing Auto Exchanges?

(d) How far will it help in the implementation of the Five Year Plan?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) January, 1952.

(b) Considerable quantity of statistics have been collected and are being tabulated. This is a continuous process.

(c) A statement of the present position is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 37.]

This Section has so far dealt with Manual Exchanges and Carrier Systems.

(d) It is essential for the drawing up and implementation of the Five Year Plan. The fixation of priorities for equipment and works and the co-ordination of the various phases of the development schemes is the responsibility of this Section.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, what will be the amount required for the working of this Section according to the Five Year Plan?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It is provided in the Budget as a normal budget provision every year.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Not for this special Section?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is any provision made in the Five Year Plan for this special Section?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** This Planning Section is part of the P. and T. Directorate. It is now under a Director who is assisted by other staff; there are two assistant Directors attached and some more staff has been added recently.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** How many proposals for opening new Exchanges and for expanding existing ones, have come and how many are justified at present?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It is difficult to say because the number is increasing every day. But it has already finished the distribution and allotment of auto equipment and priorities have been fixed for that and some other things have also been done.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, what are the reasons for opening a separate Planning Section known as Bombay Planning Unit, which has been placed under a Director of Telegraphs.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The magnitude of work and the magnitude of expansion and development of the Bombay automatic system demand a separate Planning Section. as does the system in Calcutta.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, how many V.F.T. systems have been introduced or are going to be introduced in the present financial year?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It is difficult to say. If a separate specific question is put, I will be able to give an answer.

**Shri B. S. Murthy rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** Must he ask a question on every question?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** How are priorities fixed, Sir?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** According to requirements and importance and the needs of the various places concerned.

#### RATIONALIZATION OF RAILWAY STORES

\*594. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is the existing stock-holding of the various Railways?

(b) What action has been taken for the rationalization of the stores organisations on the Railways?

(c) What is the total amount saved by this rationalisation?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The provisional figure of value of stocks on 31st March 1952 is Rs. 63.32 crores.

(b) Co-ordinated utilisation of stocks on an all-India basis was introduced last year and the procedure for procurement of railway stores is being rationalised on the lines suggested by the Railway Stores Enquiry Committee.

(c) Approximately Rs. 4 crores.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know, Sir, what are the recommendations of the Enquiry Committee?

**Shri Alagesan:** They can be found in the Report of the Committee. But the main recommendation is that the stores balances should be reduced by about Rs. 10 crores.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister is aware that there was some corruption in the management of the railway stores by railway officials, and if so, what action has been taken by the Ministry with regard to these corrupt officials?

**Shri Alagesan:** Sir, I am not aware of any corruption or corrupt practice.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know, Sir, whether the Government have issued instructions to utilise the stocks of paper which were there for 200 years—which question I raised earlier—and whether any action has been taken?

**Shri Alagesan:** Surely action has been taken on those lines.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know, Sir, what action has been taken? How many years stock still remain—whether 150 years or anything like that?

**Mr. Speaker:** He wants to know what specific action was taken.

**Shri Alagesan:** On each railway more than 5,000 to 6,000 items have been examined. It is an elaborate procedure, and the surplus that has been declared is worth about Rs. 10.19 crores.

**Mr. Speaker:** His question is specific about paper, not about the other 5,000 items. He wants to know what has been done about the paper stock.

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not have any information about the particular item, paper.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let us proceed to the next question.