

Shri Raj Bahadur: This is in foreign possession. That is not our.....

Shri N. P. Damodaran: No Sir, the post office is ours though it is situated in the French territory.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that it is managed by the Union Government.....

Shri Nambiar: I want to get the information from the Minister whether.....

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): There is no proposal like that before us at present.

TELEPHONE LINK WITH MAHE

*760. **Shri Nambiar:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Mahe is connected by telephone with other centres and if not, why not?

(b) Is there any plan to connect Mahe by telephone?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No. There is no telephone exchange at Mahe and it is not connected to the All-India trunk network.

(b) No.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether there is any representation or report from the people asking for telephone connections in this area?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am not aware of that.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: Since the Minister said that a new post office has been opened in the Indian Union Territory, is Government considering the opening of a telephone call office at that place?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Not at present Sir.

RAJPUTANA DESERT

*761. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for prevention of the spread of Rajputana desert;

(b) if so, what are the present steps; and

(c) what amount is proposed to be spent?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes, a pilot scheme has been sanctioned.

(b) A Desert Research Station at Jodhpur has recently been established and projects are in hand to immobilise sand dunes.

(c) An amount of Rs. 70,000 is likely to be spent during the current financial year (i.e. 1952-53) and an amount of Rs. 4,00,000 is being provided for next year.

Shri N. P. Sinha: Is it still in an experimental stage or some work has been done?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: A definite scheme has been formulated and it is going to be worked out.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know when it is expected that effective steps will be taken for the prevention of the spread of Rajputana desert?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It has already started.

FIRM OF DREDGER ENGINEERS

*762. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government have secured the services of a suitable firm of dredger engineers for the benefit of our intermediate ports?

(b) If so, what is the name of the firm and the terms of its engagement?

(c) Do Government propose to train Indian engineers in this line?

(d) If so, how and when do they propose to carry out their intention?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The Government of India have requested the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration to secure the services of a firm of dredger engineers of standing or of one or two experts drawn from such a firm for investigating into the problem of dredging at the more important minor ports. This request is under the consideration of that administration. No firm of dredger engineers have been approached direct.

(c) and (d). The dredgers at all major ports are mostly manned by trained Indian personnel. Necessary facilities for training in marine engineering exist at Calcutta and Kharagpur.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: How long do you think the organisation will take to secure the services of the Engineers?

Shri Alagesan: Shortly they will be getting the services of those experts.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What are the likely costs of these operations?

Shri Alagesan: I have no idea at present, Sir.