

Shri Raj Bahadur: The whole question is under examination. We have got to see whether we can introduce this in the rural areas.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister said that the whole question is under consideration. May I know whether, after such consideration, this will be extended wholly to all the towns in the same line?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is premature.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nayar: Will Government consider the system of mobile post offices as being useful to the public at large?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There are always adequate facilities for the public in the larger towns. We propose to examine it for rural areas.

GOODS BOOKING FROM CALCUTTA TO MANIPUR

*491. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the latter part of the answer to starred question No. 866 regarding prices of goods in Manipur asked on the 2nd December, 1952 and state whether it is a fact that no railway booking is allowed for movement of small consignments by goods trains from Calcutta to Manipur Road?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): No. Goods traffic in 'smalls' is being booked for movement by rail from Calcutta to Manipur Road.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know whether goods coming by Rail from Calcutta to Imphal take two to six months to reach Imphal, and if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the transport in this line?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the first part of the question accepted?

Shri Alagesan: It is not, Sir.

Shri A. C. Guha: What is the usual transport for goods from Calcutta or any part in this side of India to Imphal? What is the usual time taken for such transport?

Shri Alagesan: The hon. Member knows that there is an all rail route and a steamer-rail route and an all river route.

Shri A. C. Guha: I heard the hon. Minister to say something like an all river route.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Partly steamer and partly train.

Shri K. K. Basu: And partly immigration.

Shri A. C. Guha: What is the usual period that a parcel from Calcutta....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not prepared to allow any argument.

Shri A. C. Guha: Not an argument, Sir. I want to know the usual period taken from Calcutta.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The usual period relates to each particular route and there can be an average for each route that is taken: not with respect to all the routes.

Shri Sarmah: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state what is the usual time which goods take by Rail from Calcutta to reach the Railway station nearest to Imphal?

Shri Alagesan: I should like to have notice.

Shri Sarmah: May I know then what is the good of saying 'No' to Mr. L. J. Singh's question and that it does not take six months. He should have some basis to say how long it takes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: To give the exact time, he wants notice. Next question.

AIR FREIGHT FROM CALCUTTA TO IMPHAL

*492. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what is the actual air freight charge per pound from Calcutta to Imphal?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The approved air freight rate for Calcutta-Imphal is Re. 0-7-6 per lb.

Shri L. J. Singh: Is it true that the freight charge from Calcutta to Imphal is varying from 0-5-6 to 0-7-6 and if so what are the reasons?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have quoted the present rate. As a matter of fact, the Air Transport Licensing Board have fixed the maximum and minimum.

Shri L. J. Singh: Is it a fact that freight is charged according to the sweet will of the air companies sometimes Re. 0-5-6 and sometimes 0-7-6?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is giving information.

Shri Raj Bahadur: To a certain extent the hon. Member is right. The Air Transport Licensing Board have

fixed the maximum and minimum for freight rates between which the Air companies can charge according to the exigencies of the situation. The rates are 2-12-0 per ton mile and 0-14-0 per ton mile respectively. So far as this route is concerned, the rate can be between 0-7-6 and 0-2-5 per pound.

Shri A. C. Guha: In view of the fact that there is hardly any usual means of communication between Calcutta or any place this side of India and Imphal, may I know whether Government have made any arrangement for concessional air rates for letters and postal parcels?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I can only say that at the moment the whole future of air transport is in the melting pot.

Shri A. C. Guha: I want to know whether they have made any concessional rate.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I need not have allowed this question. It is a suggestion for action. The Minister must take time to consider it.

Shri A. C. Guha: Even then the Minister might have said that this suggestion will be taken into consideration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is for me to say that it is a suggestion.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the present fare for passengers, Rs. 95 from Calcutta to Imphal, is disproportionately high and if so, whether the fares will be reasonably reduced when the Air Corporation comes into existence?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The main question does not relate to passenger fares. I may however, state that the passenger fare is determined by many factors. I cannot say that it is very high.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG LAPIDARISTS

***494. Shri Kasliwal:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there is large-scale unemployment among the lapidarists of Jaipur?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take in this connection?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes.

(b) The import policy in regard to uncut and unset diamonds has been liberalized and a Public Notice was issued in this respect in January 1953. It is expected that most of the workers rendered unemployed as a result of

banning import of diamonds will be re-employed.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know how many workers are now unemployed?

Shri V. V. Giri: About 3,000.

CONSULTATIVE BOARD OF INDUSTRY AND LABOUR

***495. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the important matters which were considered by the Joint Consultative Board of Industry and Labour since its constitution in July, 1951;

(b) the important decisions reached by the Board;

(c) which of these recommendations were accepted and given effect to by Government; and

(d) the pending important points on which decisions are to be taken in the near future?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 13.]

Shri S. N. Das: From the statement it appears that a team of I.L.O. experts has arrived in India for studies of productivity and payment by results. May I know whether the team has started its work and by what time it is expected to finish its work?

Shri V. V. Giri: The team has started its work.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any time limit has been fixed for its finishing the work?

Shri V. V. Giri: They are expected to stay here for six months.

Shri S. N. Das: From the statement it appears that a bi-partite committee for the textile industry was to be appointed and there was some difficulty. I would like to know where the matter stands, whether it has been dropped or is being considered.

Shri V. V. Giri: The matter is not dropped, but actively pursued.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the Government are aware that the scheme of payment by results is being misused by the employers to tell away labour and to get more work turned out?

Shri V. V. Giri: I take the information from the hon. Member.