

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): There was some congestion in the Port of Calcutta during a period of about four months from middle of July to middle of November 1952, due to the rush of ships for cargoes of coal.

Port facilities at Calcutta are adequate for handling present traffic. Certain schemes of improvement estimated to cost approximately Rs. 72.35 lakhs are in progress. Further schemes estimated to cost Rs. 11.08 crores have been included in the Five Year Development Programme of the port.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the plan for the improvement of the port of Calcutta has been finalised, and if so whether the Man Singh Committee's recommendation for the implementation of this improvement work has been accepted by Government?

Shri Alagesan: The programme has been drawn up, and will be carried out as per the availability of finance during this five year period.

Dr. M. M. Das: My question was whether the recommendations of the Man Singh Committee have been accepted by Government. That is the information I want.

Shri Alagesan: The Port Authorities have drafted a programme, taking into consideration the requirements of the port for development, and the Man Singh Committee's recommendations, and the programme have been finalised. The money has to be allotted, and in the remaining three years' period of the Plan, there will be great progress.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Man Singh Committee's recommendations have been looked into, considered and acted upon in a way.

Shri K. K. Basu: What is the point of giving such a vague answer? The hon. Minister might have asked for notice instead.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has given more answers than are called for.

Shri K. K. Basu: But what is the point in giving such a vague answer?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The way of answering is different for the different Ministers. That is all. Now so far as I am concerned, I have been able to follow the hon. Minister's answer. He said that the Man Singh Committee's report was sent to the Port Authorities, they considered these recommendations, and these recommendations

have been accepted and included in the five year programme of development. What more is required? He has given more answer than was expected.

POSTAL DIRECTORY AND GUIDE

***500. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of new sub-Branch and village post-offices opened since 1950 (up-to-date)?

(b) Have the names of all such post offices been included in the latest Postal Directory and Guide and if not, why not?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Between the 1st April, 1950 and the 31st December, 1952, the number of new urban and rural post offices opened was 512 and 9,709, respectively.

(b) The names of all newly opened Post Offices have been included in the latest P. & T. Guide, which is under print. In addition to the Guide, the names and particulars of the newly opened Post Offices are published in a monthly circular.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know the reasons why the quarterly list of post offices, which was being printed previously, has been suspended now?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They are published monthly.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Are the Government aware of the fact that a very large number of letters are lost or reach the addressees late, due to the ignorance of the sorters about the existence and location of new post offices?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It was in order to overcome that difficulty, that we have begun publishing monthly lists.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know the reasons why many incorrect things are now visible in the present list of the post offices?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They may be brought to the notice of the hon. Minister.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is the hon. Minister aware that considerable difficulty is being experienced in sending telegrams, because there is no list maintained in post and telegraph offices about the other telegraph offices?

Shri Raj Bahadur: If the hon. Member has met with any difficulty, on that score, I shall be grateful to him if he

could point out to me the name of that particular telegraph office.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Such things the hon. Minister cannot carry with him. The hon. Member may kindly write to him.

Shri V. P. Nayar: It was not a question of personal difficulty. I was asking him whether in view of such difficulties...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are no difficulties, according to him.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I can point out fifteen cases.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right. Let them be brought to his notice. I would urge once again upon hon. Members one point regarding this matter. It is not as if universally all telegraph codes have been removed once and for all. There are lists in some offices, and there may not be lists in some offices. Where there is no list, and for want of a list there is any difficulty, the hon. Member can write to the hon. Minister. Why should these be raised on the floor of the House? They may be Members of the Opposition, and these people may be Ministers, but so far as information is concerned, they can easily write to the hon. Ministers, and they are also trying their best to answer those questions.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I am sorry that you have misunderstood me. I was asking whether in view of such difficulties, every post and telegraph office has a list of the other post and telegraph offices?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Every telegraph office does not send telegrams to itself. I am not able to follow the question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister stated that the directory is now in print. But before it is made available to the public, may I know whether every post office is equipped with a list of the other post offices?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Ordinarily we do supply such lists to all concerned offices. In cases where this has not been done, I shall be grateful—once again I repeat my gratefulness to the hon. Member—if the hon. Member would kindly bring it to my notice.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : यह सूची किन किन भाषाओं में छपी जाती है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : सम्भवतः अंग्रेजी में छपती है ।

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह मालूम है कि इस देश में हिन्दी समझने वाले ज्यादा हैं या अंग्रेजी भाषा समझने वाले ज्यादा हैं ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. How can this be converted into a speech in favour of Hindi? I cannot follow.

Next question.

INDIAN COASTAL LIGHT DUES

***501. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the ceiling rate of Indian Coastal Light dues;

(b) if so, by what percentage it is likely to be increased; and

(c) what are the reasons for increasing these light dues?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) The ceiling rate of lightdues prescribed under Section 10(1) of the Indian Lighthouse Act, 1927 as it stands at present is annas two per ton. It is proposed to amend this section to provide for a ceiling rate of annas four per ton and a Bill for this purpose has already been introduced in this House.

(c) The Central Lighthouse Department has a development programme which is estimated to cost about Rs. 2 crores up to the end of 1955-56. It is proposed to meet part of this expenditure by increasing the rate at which lightdues are now levied.

DEMANDS OF WORKING JOURNALISTS

***502. Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of working journalists for Trade Union rights has been under the consideration of the Government of India; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to announce their decision in this respect?