

(b) Is it also a fact that all the wagons, that had been allocated to Rajasthan for transporting other industrial goods, are being utilized for this purpose?

(c) Are Government aware of the fact that as a result of this, large quantities of goods have accumulated in Rajasthan and the trade and industry are suffering on that account?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to ease the situation?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, 2,000 tons of gypsum for Sindri Fertilizer Factory are being loaded daily from Jamsar and Kavas in Rajasthan, except on Sundays, when this traffic is loaded to the extent of 1,000 tons only.

(b) No, not all the wagons but about 25 per cent. of the wagons available for loading.

(c) Owing to this percentage of wagons having to be utilised for gypsum traffic, movement of other traffic has not been current.

(d) Steps have already been taken to increase, as far as feasible the wagon and locomotive holdings on the metre gauge portions concerned.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Are the Government aware that there was no exit of foodgrains even from one district to another in the Bikaner division, which made the famine conditions worse? May I know who was responsible for this?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Foodgrains are moved. I have got figures also for January, February, March, etc. Foodgrains are not neglected.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: May I know, Sir, what is the monthly average tonnage of goods carried over these lines?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I require notice for that.

AUTO-TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN HYDERABAD

*2028. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government have decided to open new auto-telephone exchanges in Hyderabad?

(b) If so, when do Government propose to open the same?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) One automatic exchange of 1,400 lines at Secunderabad in 1954 and another exchange of the same capacity at Saifabad in 1955.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: The project was taken up long ago. May I know why there was so much delay?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In the construction of the building; and in the availability of the equipment, etc.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Is it a fact, Sir, that the equipment arrived in Bombay, but it was diverted to Bombay State?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That was for certain obvious reasons—the non-availability of a suitable building in Hyderabad.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether the telephone equipment which are being taken over by the Centre from Hyderabad would be returned to the State, if not, would Government consider the possibility of spending the value of the equipment in the Hyderabad State?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have already got that in view. We are going to instal 1,400 lines at Secunderabad and 54 at Saifabad in 1955.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: When will this telephone equipment be brought back from Bombay?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The reply is already there.

REPORT OF DREDGING EXPERT

*2030. **Shri Namadas:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the ports visited in Andhra area, by Mr. Karimar, the Port Dredging Expert of the U.N.O.?

(b) What are his main recommendations with regard to the ports in Andhra area?

(c) When will the dredging work be commenced in those ports according to the recommendations of Mr. Karimar?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Presumably, the reference is to Mr. Cormier, a Dredging Expert deputed by the United Nations, who has, in