

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): It is proposed to examine the following alternative routes in this connection:-

- (i) Metre Gauge connection from Kasganj to Etah.
- (ii) Metre Gauge connection from Etah to Hathras Road via Jalesar, and
- (iii) Broad Gauge connection from Etah to Jalesar Road via Jalesar.

Further progress will depend on the result of the investigations.

Shri Badshah Gupta: May I know, Sir, how long will this investigation take to come to a final decision?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is difficult to give any specific date, Sir. We are doing our best.

Shri Badshah Gupta: Which of the tehsil headquarters of Etah district are likely to be benefited by this new connection?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Sir, the idea is to connect the district headquarters of Etah with the main railway line.

Shri Badshah Gupta: May I know, Sir, if it has been finally decided that Etah will be connected by a metre gauge and not by a broad gauge?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): We have to await the result of the investigation.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, if it is now the policy of the Government to connect tehsil and district headquarters with important railway junctions all over India?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir. No such policy.

MECHANISATION OF POSTAL SERVICES

*2153. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drafted any Scheme for the mechanisation of postal services in India;

(b) whether any foreign experts have come to advise in the matter; and

(c) if so, how long they will be in India and which places they are expected to visit?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) Yes. Two British experts have come to India under the Technical Assistance Scheme of the Colombo Plan.

(c) Nine months at present. It is proposed that they visit Lucknow, Kanpur, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, and Ahmedabad and such other stations as may be considered necessary.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether any sum has been set apart according to the Five Year Plan for this purpose?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir. It is proposed that 30 lakhs will be spent on mechanisation.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know, Sir, whether these experts have submitted any definite proposals with regard to this?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They came here as late as March 20, 1953. They will take time to study and examine and will then make recommendations.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know, Sir, the specific purpose or object for which they have come here to study and report?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I said, Sir, to introduce the mechanised system in the postal and telegraph departments so that we may achieve efficiency along with speed.

Shri Syed Ahmed: What are the countries they have come from?

Shri Raj Bahadur: United Kingdom.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I have a little elucidation? May I know, Sir, what is exactly meant by mechanisation of postal services?

Shri Raj Bahadur: For example, conveying of mail bags for despatch to sorting offices and from sorting offices to mail vans and so on and so forth by mechanical devices.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: Is there any proposal to start a 'tube' system for despatching letters in big cities of India as it exists in other countries?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That will depend on the recommendations that these experts make.

Shri Syed Ahmed: What is the amount of remuneration that is paid to these experts?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have not to pay any amount of remuneration as such. But they shall be entitled to draw certain allowances, lodging expenses etc. according to the terms.

Shri Syed Ahmed: What are the terms, Sir?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Their salary etc. and passage will be paid for by the U.K. Government and we shall have to pay for their lodging and allowances according to the rates allowed to first-class officers.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the mechanisation of these services will bring about any unemployment, and if so, to what extent?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Sir, it is too early to predict that.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir whether this mechanisation will cause any unemployment?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The same question was put.

JUTE CULTIVATION IN ANDHRA

*2155. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that instructions were given by the Central Government to the cultivators in the proposed Andhra State to convert their groundnut farms into jute farms?

(b) Was a memorandum submitted by the Andhra State Jute Traders' Committee to the Central Government?

(c) What action was taken on that memorandum?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM P. & T. EMPLOYEES

*2157. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government propose to grant educational concessions to the children of Posts and Telegraphs staff on the lines granted by the Madras Government for their employees?

(b) Is it the intention of the Government to classify Mathurai, Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore as 'B' grade cities in view of their industrial importance and high cost of living?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) No.

HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE TO RAILWAY STAFF

*2158. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the policy of Government is to grant house rent allowance to Railway staff living contiguous to municipalities?

(b) Is the policy followed in the case of railway staff living near all municipalities or is it based on the size of population of each municipality or on any other consideration?

(c) Has the Railway staff at Salem junction been granted house rent allowance accordingly?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The policy of Government is to grant house rent allowance to staff whose place of work is located in Municipalities, Notified Areas and Cantonments having a population of substantially more than one lakh and in Municipalities, Notified Areas or Cantonments contiguous to these irrespective of the size of the population in the latter.

(c) Yes; as a special case from 1-10-1952.

NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMME

*2160. **Shri Jethalal Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Norwegian Financial Aid Programme has commenced in Travancore-Cochin?

(b) What is the estimate of the expenses of the Programme?

(c) How much financial aid is expected from Norway?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 37.6 lakhs for the year 1953-54.

(c) A sum of Rs. 27 lakhs has been allocated by the Norwegian Government for the community project for fishery development in Travancore-Cochin State during the year 1953-54.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: What are the items of the programme, and how long will it take to complete?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The first step to be taken so far as the implementation of the project will be to provide as many motors as possible for