

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I have not got the figures here. If the hon. Member is interested I am prepared to give him those figures.

Shri Sarmah: Then, what was the basis of his statement that it is given in generous quantity?

Shri Kidwai: It is the Assam Government that has supplied this information. And whatever the Assam Government considers generous is generous, because they have informed us of this.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: What is the measure of generosity of the Government of India so far as Assam is concerned?

Shri Kidwai: I think the hon. Member, who comes from Assam, should know better whether what the Government calls generous is generous or is not generous.

CANCER

*246. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the International Cancer Research Commission was of the view that present knowledge on Cancer was not "adequate enough"?

(b) Do Government propose to examine the points suggested by Dr. V. R. Khanolkar, President of the Commission?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) It is a fact that many problems regarding the etiology of cancer have not yet been solved.

(b) The proceedings of the Conference have not yet been received by Government. The points raised at the Conference will of course be examined.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether any separate research is being carried on under the auspices of the Government of India for finding out the real causes of cancer?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, Sir, the Government of India has now got the Cancer Research Institute in Bombay under its control, and research is being carried on there.

Shri V. P. Nayar: By how long does Government expect that research in this direction will bear fruit?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is this question? Research is endless as far as we have been able to see.

Shri V. P. Nayar: To find out the actual causes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It goes on all over the world. In Canada there is a research institute. All that I wish to point out is that such questions do not serve any purpose. Research is infinite, and in various parts of the world such research is being made. They will benefit by one another's researches. Therefore it is not confined to this country alone.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: There was a Conference on Cancer Research Commission, about its proceedings, I asked the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is all right. But what is the question?

Sardar A. S. Saigal: I have no supplementaries to make.

MOBILE POST OFFICES

*247. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether final proposals for two mobile post offices in Bombay have been sent to Government for sanction?

(b) If so, has the necessary sanction been granted?

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

(b) Not yet. The matter is still under examination.

Shri Gidwani: How long it will take?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This is a question of rather general application. We have got to expand facilities for mobile post offices. In large towns which have a population of more than five lakhs, we are trying to design a mobile post office van which may afford all necessary facilities and conveniences of a post office.

Shri Gidwani: May I know in how many places this scheme is worked out?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Four places.

Shri Gidwani: Which are those places?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It has been answered a number of times—Madras, Nagpur, Delhi and Kanpur.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM IN BOMBAY

*248. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a great demand for new telephone connections in the city of Bombay?

(b) Is there any scope for expanding the service?

(c) What steps are being taken to re-equip the same before expanding?

(d) Was any scheme of having public telephone booths attached to petrol pumps, restaurants and other shopping centres all over the city proposed by Shri P. M. Agarwal, while he was acting General Manager of Bombay Telephones?

(e) If so, do Government propose to introduce that system to bring the telephone service within easy reach of the citizens?

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

(b) There is scope for expansion. In fact expansion is being effected gradually. 11,000 additional telephones have been given in Bombay since 31st March, 1949.

(c) Expansion and replacement are proceeding simultaneously. Planning for expansion by 39,000 lines is in progress. Replacement of 10,000 lines of old equipment is expected to be completed by 1956. 3,100 lines of old equipment was replaced in 1951-52.

(d) and (e). Such a scheme for opening public telephones was already under preparation when a proposal was also received from the General Manager Telephones, Bombay. The rules are being finalised.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether public institutions will get any priority over other demands?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The rule is that as they fall in one of the exempted categories they do get a priority.

Sardar Hukam Singh: They also insist upon asking for their own telephones?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They do not have to make a deposit of Rs. 2,000 or Rs 2,500.-.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: Is the system of getting a telephone connection by making a deposit of Rs. 2,000/- still in vogue in Bombay and is there demand in spite of that rule of deposit?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In view of the fact that we were unable to cope with the increasing demand on account of paucity of equipment, etc., we had to suspend this scheme in November, 1951 but so far as the old demands under the scheme are concerned, we have met all of them barring a small fraction most of which we hope to meet by the end of this month.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that in spite of large amounts of deposits being made with the Government, telephones are not provided for a long time?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have not been able to provide telephones to a large number of people. That is right.

Sardar Hukam Singh: These deposit amounts are lying with you?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as Bombay is concerned, we had deposits from applicants numbering 5645. We have been able to provide telephones to 5406 applicants. The remaining 239, will have their connections by the end of this month barring a few who may not get these for purely technical reasons and the list will thus be liquidated.

COAL MINING

***249. Shri P. C. Bose:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether coal deposits have been newly discovered in India but mining operation has not yet been started?

(b) Are Government aware that owing to unscientific mining in the major coal fields, there had been premature collapse underground and consequent loss of coal in many coal mines?

(c) In view of the above, what steps do Government propose to take so that mining operation is carried on from the beginning as scientifically as possible in the newly discovered coal fields to avoid danger and loss of coal?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the new coal seams which have been found in North Karanpura, Korba and Raniganj coal-fields. These have been mapped by the Geological Survey and prospected, but have not yet been exploited.

(b) and (c). This was so in the past, but during the last ten years few premature collapses had occurred, and these too were in workings made many years ago. In 1939, certain regulations were introduced to control the dimensions of pillars and galleries and method of extraction. No premature collapses have occurred in workings made according to these regulations. Stipulations intended to ensure scientific working from the beginning are also made when permission to open new mines is granted.