

(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.

**Shri P. C. Bose:** How many collieries are now on fire?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** I want notice.

**RE-INSTATEMENT OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEE**

\*250. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to re-instate the large number of railwaymen suspended or discharged under the "Railway Services (Safeguarding of National Security) Rules 1949";

(b) whether it is a fact that a deputation of the leaders of opposition parties and groups in Parliament waited on the Minister of Railways and requested the re-instatement of the above railwaymen on the 28th July, 1952 and if so, what reply was given by the Minister and to what extent the promise given, if any, was implemented; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of railwaymen discharged under the above Rules have been without any pay or allowance for the last two to three years and that they have individually and collectively appealed to the Minister for re-instatement?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). The Minister told a deputation of Members of Parliament belonging to certain opposition groups who met him during the last session and in which the hon. Member himself was included, that he would review the cases to ascertain if anything could be done. This review has been conducted and he has decided that except in a few cases the orders cannot be amended; in these few cases the men concerned will be offered re-employment. Similarly in respect of those against whom action is pending, he has decided that except in respect of a few, further action must proceed.

(c) Yes, those who have been removed from service have naturally not received any pay or allowances.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know, Sir, with respect to a few except so-and-so as stated, what will be the exact number or approximate number who are likely to be reinstated or not?

**Shri Alagesan:** With regard to those cases, I think it will be about 20, and among the category of persons whose cases are still pending, about 10 will be reinstated.

**Shri Nambiar:** The promise given by the Hon. Minister was that, excepting very few cases, all others will be

reinstated. I want to know whether the hon. Minister can enlighten us on this point?

**Shri Alagesan:** We undertook to make a further review of all these cases and consider them and he has come to this conclusion.

**Shri Nambiar:** What is the total number of workers involved in this, either discharged or suspended?

**Shri Alagesan:** First category, about 178; Second category, about 58.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know, whether after reinstatement, the suspended employees were paid their full wages and allowance?

**Shri Alagesan:** No.

**Shri Raghavaiah:** May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that in the reply given by the hon. Minister last time, he specifically stated that ten cases which had been recommended by the Government of Madras would be given preference in their reinstatement?

**Shri Alagesan:** I am not aware of that.

**Shri Raghavaiah:** May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the case of the ten railway workers of Bitragunta will be taken as a preferential case?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** They were also considered.

**Shri Alagesan:** All these things were considered.

**Shri Nambiar:** Amongst 178, about 20 will be reinstated. May I know whether the Government will reconsider the whole position?

**Shri Alagesan:** It has just been reconsidered.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Will the hon. Minister explain to the House the charges that were levelled against these officials and what has happened to the revised decision on those charges?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** You are aware of 178 charges. The whole humanity commits so many charges.

**Shri Namdhari:** Will the Government consider dealing strongly with professional propagandists who are organising strikes and misleading railwaymen for paralysing our national development?