

were combined and Andhra areas were included in the proposals.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know, Sir, whether the newly-formed Andhra State has asked the Central Government for any aid for minor irrigation projects?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Not yet, Sir. They have been called for.

**Shri C. R. Chowdary:** May I know, Sir, whether any instructions were issued that a general survey of minor irrigation projects in the Andhra State be conducted in the near future?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Sir, I am contemplating to address the Andhra Government so far as this is concerned.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid it is too early.

#### AID TO MADRAS STATE

\*63. **Shri C. R. Chowdary:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what amounts of loan and grant have been given to the Madras State under the "Grow More Food" Scheme since the 1st April, 1953?

(b) How much out of it has been allocated to the Andhra State and on what schemes?

(c) What amount out of the grant allocated to works in the Andhra State stands unspent at present?

(d) How much of the amount went to aid private-owned projects such as irrigation wells and tanks under the "Grow More Food Campaign"?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) Up to 15th October 1953, the amounts sanctioned are—Loans Rs. 43,00,810 and Grants Rs. 23,49,451.

(b) to (d). The information has been called for from the Government of Andhra and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

#### COAL CESS

\*64. **Shri Soren:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the ans-

wer given to unstarred question No. 198 on the 11th August, 1953 and state:

(a) the amount spent by the Central Government out of the cess collected by the Central Government for the welfare of the coal mine labourers: and

(b) whether the amount of the Bihar Government's collection of local cess are available now and if so, how much it is?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

#### COURTESY WEEK

\*65. **Shri Bhagwat Jha:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Railwaymen observed a courtesy week in October 1953?

(b) If so, what were the main features of this week?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) Yes. A courtesy week was observed from 2nd October 1953 to 8th October 1953.

(b) An all-out campaign was launched on the railways for educating the staff in the habit of courteous behaviour towards the public by (i) distribution of posters and folders in English as well as in regional languages, (ii) special courtesy lectures to staff, (iii) special watch over the conduct of staff at important stations during busy hours, (iv) publicity by loudspeakers and (v) in local press.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha:** May I know, Sir, if this 'courtesy week' applies to those ticket checkers also who in the wake of the disappointment of 'Give me money and no ticket' campaign, push the innocent villagers out of the train?

**Mr. Speaker:** Has he any other question to put?

**Shri Bhagwat Jha:** There are many, but they won't reply.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** May I know, Sir, if the observance of this 'courtesy week' also tried to bring about a more courteous treatment between the passengers who wanted to board a train and the passengers who were already in the train?

**Shri Frank Anthony:** Is it a fact, Sir, that....

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Sir, my question is being answered.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. It need not be answered.

**Shri Frank Anthony:** Is it a fact Sir, that this courtesy week has been resented by the large body of subordinate railwaymen as implying an unwarranted slight on them and suggesting that they, compared with other Government servants, are a dis-courteous, go-rush lot of employees?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** Our information, Sir, is to the contrary. In fact, this, 'courtesy week' has been observed with great enthusiasm by all railwaymen.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** My question was very important and the hon. Minister was going to answer, when my friend interrupted.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have disallowed it.

#### RADIO TELEPHONE

\*66. **Shri Bhagwat Jha:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India is to be linked by direct radio telephone with Persian Gulf (Bahrain) and Malaya (Singapore)?

(b) When is the scheme to materialise?

(c) What would be the approximate cost of this scheme?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). Negotiations are going on between the Overseas Communications Service and the Foreign Telegraph Administrations concerned for the establishment of direct radio telephone services with Persian Gulf and Singapore. The service with Persian

Gulf is expected to materialise shortly but there might be some delay in the case of the service to Singapore due to shortage of equipment at that end.

(c) The services will be worked with existing equipment and staff and as such no extra expenditure is involved.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha:** What are the other countries under the contemplation of Government which will be connected by means of this radio telephone?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Many countries. There are as many as 20 countries. If I may be permitted, I will read out the names.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

#### SURCHARGE ON FOODGRAINS

\*67. **Shri Nanadas:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state in which of the States surcharge is levied on foodgrains?

(b) What are the rates of surcharge on different foodgrains in different States?

(c) What are the reasons for continuing the surcharge on foodgrains at present?

(d) Do Government propose to abolish the levying of surcharge on foodgrains in surplus States?

(e) If not, what are the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) to (e). Orissa is the only State which has been permitted to levy a surcharge on rice exports at as. 3 per maund up to 31st December 1953 as a very special case. This was agreed to in view of the comparatively low price of Orissa rice and in order to maximise procurement for making available larger surpluses for export to deficit areas, thereby minimising imports of costly rice from overseas.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know, Sir, whether any surcharge is levied on rice in the Andhra State?