

**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 discourteous, 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?