

Shri Nanadas: Am I to understand then that there will be only one postal circle for Andhra and Hyderabad?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That depends upon the ultimate destiny of Hyderabad itself.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Does the hon. Minister mean that the solution of the question will depend upon the disintegration of Hyderabad?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are not influenced by considerations of the boundary of States, but we have to see that we have got a reasonable adjustment of the boundaries of circles.

NEW LOCOMOTIVES

*173. **Shri B. Y. Reddi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Locomotive engines put on the rails during the half year 1st April 1953 to 30th September 1953;

(b) out of these the number imported and the value thereof in rupees;

(c) the value of those of indigenous manufacture; and

(d) how many over-aged engines were put off the rails during this period?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 84 locomotives.

(b) 54 locomotives.

Rs. 150 lakhs.

(c) Rs. 135 lakhs.

(d) 71 locomotives which were both overage and in a condition of advanced deterioration.

Shri Frank Anthony: May I know whether any of these locomotives are of the W. P. type?

Shri Alagesan: You mean the imported ones?

Shri Frank Anthony: Yes.

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir.

Shri Frank Anthony: Is it a fact that many of these W. P. engines have cracked up within a few years of their being imported and had to be laid off?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, the question was raised even before on the floor of this House. It is true that the cylinders of some of the W. P. and W. G. engines cracked, but they were set right.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: May I know whether the Government have placed orders for 750 locomotives with certain foreign firms at a cost of Rs. 100 crores?

Shri Alagesan: Not 750 but for a lesser number. I cannot give the number off-hand.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know how many of these engines were metre gauge and how many broad gauge—those of indigenous manufacture?

Shri Alagesan: Sixteen broad gauge and fourteen metre gauge.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: What is their productive capacity?

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether these over-aged engines are used for goods trains or for passenger trains?

Shri Alagesan: Perhaps both. I am not quite aware.

COWDUNG GAS

*174. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experiments for finding out a method of producing cowdung gas and using it for domestic and industrial purposes have been successful;

(b) if so, what are the difficulties in introducing it on a large scale; and

(c) whether any agency, official or non-official, has been working to that end?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) Experiments on producing gas from cowdung are in progress and have