

proposal to start any potato development centres in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and PEPSU States in the near future?

- **The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** A centre at Shillaroo was started in Himachal Pradesh during 1953. In Punjab, three centres at Manali, Karnal and Jullundur will be opened during 1954. There is no proposal to start any centre in PEPSU.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know if there is a proposal to start any centre in the Hamirpur Tahsil of Kangra district, which is a potato growing area and which is also a backward area?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have got a list here. I think these relate to Punjab. The only districts where we are starting these centres are Jullundur and Karnal.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** How much amount is being spent on these Research institutes in a year?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** It varies from place to place. I have not got the total here.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** What particular diseases affecting potato have been investigated?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** In different places, different diseases are investigated. On the whole we want to evolve potato seeds which will be free from disease, especially the virus diseases. That is the main function.

#### INSURANCE POLICIES OF DISPLACED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

\*807. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that premia on insurance policies of Government employees who had migrated to India after 31st March 1948 have been accepted till now; and

(b) whether Government have recently declined to accept such premia and the concerned persons have been asked to enquire from the

Director-General of Post Offices, East Bengal as to whether they should continue to pay the premia?

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

(b) Payments on account of Postal Life Insurance Policies which are the liability of Pakistan were provisionally accepted upto 31-12-52. Pakistan Government have, however, declined to accept this arrangement on a reciprocal basis and desired that premia should be remitted through normal banking channels. No formal orders asking Post Offices not to accept such premia have, however, been issued, as the matter is still under correspondence with the Government of Pakistan. In some cases, however, recently to avoid hardship, insurants have been advised in their own interest to make payments in India only after consultation with the Pakistan authorities.

**Shri Gidwani:** Did the Pakistan Government accept these premia and also accept the liability to pay the policy amount?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It is a question of forwarding of the list of policies by Pakistan for which the liability will be borne by India and our forwarding a list of policies for which Pakistan will take over the corresponding liability. So far as we are concerned, we have sent the list. They have promised that they will complete the list soon and that they will send the final list by March this year.

**Shri Gidwani:** Why were these people not asked to continue to pay their premia here, but asked to contact the Director-General of Post Offices in East Pakistan?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Arrangements have been changing from time to time. As a matter of fact, the first basis for the assumption of responsibility or liabilities of these policies was the residence of a particular insurant on 15-8-1947. Then, by mutual arrangement it was arranged that the date may be March 1948. Then, payments

were continued. We proposed finally that premia should be accepted uptill as late as 31st December, 1951. Again, we wanted to extend the date, but they did not accept. All these complications have arisen because Pakistan do not agree to the payment of premia in Indian Post Offices for policies for which they are liable.

**Shri Gidwani:** How will you give them relief if they do not pay and if their policies lapse?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** There is no danger. Whatever premium they are paying in our post offices will be refunded to them in case the Pakistan Government refuses to accept them through the channel of the post offices.

#### DISMANTLED LINES

\*810. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the railway lines that were dismantled in India during the last war, and have not been so far re-laid; and

(b) which of them it has been finally decided are not to be re-laid?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) A list of the railway lines dismantled during the last war and not so far re-laid has been placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 61.]

(b) Up-to-date Traffic Appreciation Reports and Estimates of cost of Restoration are being examined and no final decision has so far been reached. One of the dismantled lines, viz., Raipur Forest Tramway was however, owned by the C.P. Government and it is upto the Madhya Pradesh Government to consider its restoration.

**Shri Ram Dass:** May I know what new lines the Government contemplate to lay in the Five Year Plan period in the Punjab?

**Shri Alagesan:** The question of restoring the Rohtak-Gohana-Panipat line is under consideration.

**Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** May I know if the Government have any settled policy regarding the restoration of the railway lines which were taken out during war time?

**Mr. Speaker:** He wants to know whether Government have any general policy or whether they are taking individual lines into consideration.

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):** I have already announced it in my speech in the House the other day. In fact, our policy is to restore as many of them as possible, except those which are found to be wholly unremunerative.

**Shri M. D. Ramasami:** May I know whether the Tirupattur-Krishnagiri dismantled line will be reopened?

**Shri Alagesan:** I think the hon. Member refers to the Morappur-Hosur line. It is in place of that that the extended line from Bangalore to Salem is under consideration.

#### रेलों में चोरियाँ

\*८१२. श्री भागवत दत्त आजाद : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) जनवरी से दिसम्बर, १९५३ तक मालगाड़ी के डिब्बों से माल की चोरी के कितने मामले अधिकारियों के सामने आये ;

(ख) चोरी गये माल का मूल्य कितना था ;

(ग) कितने मूल्य का माल वापिस मिला ; और

(घ) सरकार ऐसी चोरियों को रोकने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The number of thefts of goods from wagons reported to the authorities during January to December, 1954, was 6,882.