

and many more to be expanded, and for certain exchanges we require replacement of old equipment. In accordance with that Plan we hope that the equipment for the Patna scheme will be available by the end of March, 1956, that the buildings also will be ready by that time. We hope the telephone exchange will go through in 1957.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the factors that are taken into consideration in fixing priorities?

Shri Raj Bahadur: First of all, the number of telephone connections required in a particular town, the importance of the town, the traffic that may emanate from that place, then the financial aspects of the whole scheme, getting the new buildings and stores—all these are taken into account.

Shri Radhelaal Vyas: May I know whether the topmost priority will be given to places like Gwalior where there existed an automatic exchange which has been removed now and replaced by the other system?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are fully conscious of the necessity of an automatic exchange at Gwalior because it happens to be the capital—part-time capital—of the Government of Madhya Bharat and so it comes within the purview of our accepted scheme. But I must add that the automatic exchange equipment which was replaced by manual system was quite out of date, outmoded and worn out. It was serving no useful purpose. Hence it was changed to manual system.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the cost of the Patna scheme, and by what time is the Calcutta scheme likely to be completed?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The cost of the Patna scheme is about Rs. 58 lakhs. and the Calcutta scheme will be completed by 1957.

DIBRUGARH RAILWAY WORKSHOP

*2346. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 1185 asked on the 21st December,

1953 and state whether it is now contemplated to erect any machines at Dibrugarh Workshop in Assam in place of the three machines transferred to Gorakhpur Workshop?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): Yes.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know whether these machines will be replaced by machines from Gorakhpur Workshops, or orders will be placed outside so that new machines may come and replace them?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: These machines are being replaced by older machines from various workshops on the North-Eastern Railway.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Do I understand that no new machines are being brought for the purpose of replacing these machines?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Only the old machines are being sent there.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know what has happened to the workers who are working on these machines in Dibrugarh? Have they been transferred to Gorakhpur or have they been retained or sacked?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They continue to work in Dibrugarh.

TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS

*2347. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Railways have fixed quotas of collections of Travelling Ticket Examiners to be collected from ticketless passengers; and

(b) what is the basis of fixing this quota?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Some Railways have fixed target figures of collections to be aimed at by travelling ticket examiners.