

service is carried out only under orders of the Director of Postal Services. Mutual exchanges, however can be permitted by Divisional Authorities direct.

(c) Does not arise in view of replies to (a) & (b) above.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if any cases have come to the notice of Government where the Senior Superintendent transferred certain clerks from one Division to another without the concurrence of the Director of Postal Services, Hyderabad?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I said, the Senior Superintendent can transfer from one Division to another, subject to the concurrence of the Superintendent in charge of the other Division.

CENSUS OF LAND HOLDINGS

*968. **Shri R. S. Lal:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any directions have been given to State Governments for census of land holdings?

(b) If so, do Government propose to place a copy of the same on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the Government of India's letter No. F.5-27/53-PC.II, dated January 8, 1954 addressed to State Governments is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library. See Library Index No. S—78/54.]

Shri N. M. Lingam: How do Government reconcile their anxiety to solve the land problem and thereby the unemployment problem, with the tardy fashion in which State Governments move in the matter, as seen by their failure even to take a census of land?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think I can allow that question. It is full of so many insinuations.

Shri Thimmaiah: May I know, Sir, whether any proposal has been sent by the State Governments regarding the ceiling to be fixed on the holding of land?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Some States are considering this question.

RAILWAY PAYMENT TO GENERAL REVENUES

*969. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of interest due from the Indian Railways to the General Revenues during 1952-53;

(b) the amount that was actually paid; and

(c) the reasons of non-payment of the full amount?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). No interest was due to General Revenues from Indian Railways during 1952-53. But, the dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. on the Capital-at-Charge due and paid to General Revenues for 1952-53 was Rs. 33.99 crores.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: On what capital is this dividend due?

Shri Alagesan: About Rs. 857.4 crores.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Does it include all the capital of the Railways?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir, except for the late Bengal-Assam and North-Western Railways whose accounts have not yet been settled.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have to request hon. Members not to carry on talks, because under the sound arrangement, it interferes with my hearing. On the left as well as on the right benches I find that talks are continuously going on. I am not able to hear what the question is and what the answer to it is. Talks, even in low tone, are reproduced in loud tone. Hon. Members would do well to help the Chair in maintaining silence. If they have to talk anything, they may go out and do so.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What is the length of those Railways?

Shri Alagesan: About 34,000 miles.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What is the amount of capital invested in them?

Mr. Speaker: He perhaps means those railways in respect of which he did not show any return or dividend—the length of those railways.

Shri Alagesan: I do not have those figures with me.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if dividend is paid on Rs. 60 crores for which there are no tangible assets, as reported by the Indian Railways Enquiry Committee?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir, that is a matter of record.

INDIAN TELEPHONE INDUSTRIES

*970. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the medical facilities given to the workers of the Indian Telephone Industries Bangalore are inadequate?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): No, the medical facilities are not considered inadequate. It is, however proposed to provide further facilities by establishing a hospital in the residential area of the Factory. The work on this is expected to be taken up during the current year. It is also proposed to provide a creche for children of the women employees as the demand for it arises.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Are Government aware, Sir, that in this Factory where hundreds of women are working there is no lady doctor?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The number of women is 167 and we have got one nurse, a midwife and one medical officer, who are looking after and rendering them adequate medical facilities. So far the rule was that only unmarried women and widows were allowed to be employed.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it on account of lack of proper medical facilities that the management has placed restrictions on the marriage of working women there?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There is no restriction on marriage as such. As a matter of fact, till now only unmarried women were allowed. Now we have changed the rules and married women also will be allowed to be employed, and consequently whatever medical facilities are required will be provided.

TOBACCO RE-DRYING MACHINE AT GUNTUR

*971. **Shri C. R. Chowdary:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Guntur District Tobacco Marketing Committee requested that the Tobacco Re-drying Plant purchased by the Central Tobacco Marketing Committee be given to it;

(b) the reply that was given by Government; and

(c) what decision has been taken by Government for disposal of the Plant?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: How long will it take to take a decision on this matter?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I believe it will be finalised within the course of the next few weeks.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: Is it not a fact that many parts of this plant are missing already?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no information.

Shri Nanadas: May I know when this plant was purchased and how long was it lying idle there?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It was purchased a few years ago and it is a fact that it has been lying idle because in the meantime there were adequate arrangements for curing made by private agencies and therefore, this plant could not be used.