

what action has the Government taken in this respect?

Shri Alagesan: It has been decided in consultation with the Andhra Government to take National Highway No. 7 via Kurnool and it has also been decided to put up a bridge on the Tungabhadra.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether Government have fixed any criterion for deciding a road as a National Highway, or it is decided at random?

Shri Alagesan: Not at all; we do follow some principles like connecting major ports, capitals of States, so on and so forth.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

*904. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to conduct classes for the training of the Revenue Department employees of States for collecting agricultural statistics of the country;

(b) if so, the main purpose of starting these classes; and

(c) when they will be started and on what level?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) The object of the training is to ensure that agencies whose duty it is to report or record different items of agricultural statistics are enabled to discharge their duties adequately with a proper understanding of the new standard, definitions, and concepts evolved during recent years.

(c) It is hoped to be able to start these classes before the end of this financial year. Several States have agreed to join the scheme, but a number of others have not yet communicated their views.

Shri Buchhikotaiah: May I know who will bear the expenses for these classes; whether Central or State Governments?

Shri Kidwai: The Centre is starting the classes and so it will bear the expenses.

Shri Thimmajah: May I know the total number of employees to be trained and the period of training?

Shri Kidwai: That will be decided when we receive applications and also the recommendations from the States.

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS

*905. **Shri Gidwai:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware that many applications for allotment of telephones have not been disposed of for want of telephone equipment in Delhi, Bombay and other places in India;

(b) if so, the reasons for the shortage of the equipment; and

(c) when do Government expect to supply telephone connections to all those who need them?

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

(b) The amount of equipment that is available from workshops and other sources is much less than what is required to meet the demands which are abnormally high and it takes considerable time for the manufacture and installation of equipment, especially the auto plant.

(c) By 31st March, 1955, it is expected that a position will be reached when it will be possible to provide connections to all those who need them in all exchange except about 24 large cities.

Shri Gidwai: "Except about 24 large cities", but it is the cities that need these connections most.

Mr. Speaker: What is the question?

Shri Gidwai: The hon. Minister stated that connections could be provided to all those who need them in all exchanges except 24 cities. May

I know why it is not possible in the case of the cities, which need them most?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The position is that we have got as many as 532 exchanges, out of which 300 approximately have waiting lists for new connections. We hope to provide connections to all those who need them in all exchanges except about 24 cities, including of course the four big cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras.

Shri Gidwani: May I have an idea of the number on the waiting list?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am just giving a rough idea.

Assam Circle.—Gauhati 136; Dibrugarh 103.

Bengal Circle.—None on the waiting list.

Bihar Circle.—Patna 170.

Punjab Circle.—Amritsar 500, Jullundur 267.

Rajasthan Circle.—Indore 472.

Central Circle.—Nagpur 756.

Orissa.—Nil.

Andhra.—Nil.

Bombay Circle.—Poonā 798; Surat 316.

Madras Circle.—Coimbatore 401; Madurai 176.

U. P. Circle.—Kanpur 656; Allahabad 565; Lucknow 553; Banaras 332; Agra 395.

That is all that we have got upto the 31st March, 1955.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Can I have an idea of the cost that a private individual is required to incur in the different places, Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The hon. Member refers to the rental, I take it. It ranges from Rs. 252 to Rs. 288 a year. On the message rate basis, the rent is about Rs. 10 or Rs. 12 a month plus ten calls per rupee in Bombay and Calcutta and twelve calls per rupee in other places.

TELEPHONE LINES IN FORMER STATES

***906. Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to sanction a non-recurring grant to the Government of Orissa for the maintenance of telephone lines in the ex-States' areas which have now been taken over by the Posts and Telegraphs Department;

(b) if so, amount of the grant; and

(c) whether it is to the extent requested by the Government of Orissa?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No grant has been sanctioned to the Government of Orissa.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

RECLAMATION OF TUNGABHADRA PROJECT AREA

***907. Shri Gadlingana Gowd:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 1337 asked on the 26th March, 1954 and state:

(a) whether any reply has been received from the Andhra Government regarding the undertaking of certain works by the C.T.O.;

(b) whether the Engineers of the Central Tractor Organisation have inspected the area; and

(c) the terms and conditions under which the Central Tractor Organisation will take up reclamation work in Tungabhadra Project area?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, Sir. The reply is to the effect that the proposal for utilising the services of the Central Tractor Organisation in the Tungabhadra Project region of Andhra has been dropped.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.