

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

1597

1598

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Wednesday, 9th July, 1952

*The House met at a Quarter Past Eight
of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL AGENTS

***1582. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allowances paid to extra departmental agents were increased during the year 1951 or 1952;

(b) what is the numerical strength of the extra departmental agents; and

(c) whether any of these agents have been absorbed in the regular service of Posts and Telegraphs during the year 1951 or 1952?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The information regarding rates of basic allowances of extra departmental Agents was given in reply to part (b) of the unstarred question No. 173, asked by Shrimati Renu Chakravarty on 13th June 1952. Last month, orders were issued increasing the maximum basic allowance of Extra-departmental Delivery Agents from Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 and sanctioning additional allowance up to Rs. 10 to Extra-departmental Sub-Postmasters and Extra-departmental Branch Postmasters, who are required to carry or deliver mails in addition to their normal duties as Extra-departmental Postmasters.

(b) According to the latest information received, the number of Extra-departmental Agents on 30th April 1952 was 57,118.

(c) Yes, 85.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Have they got any privileges about the leave or other facilities?

146 P.S.D.

Shri Raj Bahadur: In the very nature of things because they are not full-time employees of the Government, they are not governed by those rules about privileges of leave etc.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are they eligible for the examinations that are held by the Department for recruitment?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, under certain conditions. If they fulfil certain conditions, they are eligible.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that if the Post Master of Extra-departmental Service wants to be absorbed in the service, he must first be recruited as a postman?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No, Sir. That is not the case. If he wants to be absorbed in the regular service, he shall have to appear for an examination and will be required to possess the minimum educational qualification which is the Matriculation.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Have they now been given any facilities as to promotion or increments or have they to continue on one allowance?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I explained earlier these people are part-time servants of the Government and therefore so far as facilities etc. for promotion are concerned, they are governed by certain rules.

Shri Velayudhan: If the agents are to be absorbed in the Department what are the qualifications necessary?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They shall remain agents unless they get qualified at the examinations.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Eswara Reddy: May I know whether any representation has been received by the Ministry from the Union of Postal Employees demanding increase in the basic pay.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The questions of representations are not dealt with here. They may be dealt with in the Ministry directly.

GUM FOR POSTAL ENVELOPES

*1583. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports from Postmasters in charge of Post offices in different climatic regions of India regarding the suitability of improved gum used on postal envelopes or postage stamps have been examined; and

(b) If so, whether the sample forwarded to the Postmasters has been approved?

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

(b) No. It has not been found suitable.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any enquiry about any other substance is being made by the British firm that was first requested to give us the result of its research?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The British firm supplied a gum known as arabic gum but it was not found to be suitable and now the Master, India Security Press, Nasik has recommended dextrine and we have found that good results are obtained from it.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any research on this subject is being made in India also independent of that firm?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I said, the Master, India Security Press does carry out that.

VANA MAHOTSAVA

*1584. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to celebrate and observe a third Vana Mahotsava this year; and

(b) what is the proportion of survivals of the trees planted during the first two Mahotsavas?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes.

(b) The reports for 1950 show that at least one-third of the plantings have survived. All the reports for 1951 have not yet been received.

Sardar Hukam Singh: So far as the first Vana Mahotsava was concerned we were told that one crore trees survived out of the three crores planted in the first winter. What happened to the 200 crores?

Shri Karmarkar: Our latest estimates show that in all 4 crores and 43 lakhs were planted in the first year and out of that 1 crore and 70 lakhs survived. The percentage was 38.4. Government have no further information on that point.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What happened to the second plantation that was done? What number or what percentage survived the first winter?

Shri Karmarkar: The total planted was three crores eleven lakhs and twelve thousand. The number surviving was estimated at one crore and more.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it for both plantations or one?

Shri Karmarkar: For the second plantation.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: I find a number of trees on Hastings Road have been cut down. Is it the Ministry's view that there are too many trees in New Delhi?

Shri Karmarkar: I shall convey this to the hon. Minister for Works, Housing and Supply.

Mr. Speaker: Let us go to the next question.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OFFICIAL TRAVEL ORGANISATIONS

*1585. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether the first meeting of the Regional Commission of the International Union of Official Travel Organisations was held in New Delhi as scheduled?

(b) If so, what were the subjects discussed at the meeting?

(c) Which of the countries were represented on the Commission's meeting?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to the reply given to part (b) of Starred Question No. 338 on 2nd June 1952.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, the activities of this Regional Commission after the Commission was started?