

Shri Raj Bahadur: Complaints come and they are investigated.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know the number of complaints received during the last year?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would require notice.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that in Calcutta, there was a complaint that a doctor who had closed his shop and gone away has also been recorded as sending out messages?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is a specific complaint which has not been brought to my notice. I am grateful to the hon. Member for the information.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is there any proposal to extend this system to some other stations during the next year?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir. During this year we propose to extend it to Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Shillong, Trivandrum, Ludhiana, Jullundur and Jaipur.

HINDI TELEGRAPHS SERVICE

*2105. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Hindi Telegraphs service in Devanagri script is being progressively extended to various centres?

(b) Has this service been freely utilised by the public on the stations where it is available?

(c) Have any telegrams written in any other Indian languages in Devanagri script been transmitted from these stations?

(d) If so, what was the number at each station during the period 31st December, 1951 to 31st March, 1952?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes. The Hindi Telegraph service was initially introduced on 1st June 1949 at 9 stations. It was later extended to 3 more stations in 1949-50, to 6 new stations in 1950-51 and further to 5 stations in 1951-52. During the current year, one station has already been added to the list.

(b) The service has not been much utilised by the public. Except at a few places, the average number of Hindi telegrams booked is not more than one message a day, the highest average being only about 20 messages a week.

(c) Telegrams in any Indian language written in the Devanagri script

can be accepted at all places where the Hindi telegraph service is available. In actual practice, however, only some telegrams in Marathi are booked from places in the Bombay State and occasionally a few in Marwari from places in the Central Circle.

(d) Separate statistics of telegrams in various Indian languages are not maintained. Approximate figures of such telegrams booked during the period from the 1st January to the 31st March, 1952 are, however, as follows:

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|---|-------------------------------|
| From places in Bombay State | 480 in Marathi: |
| From places in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan | 2 in Marathi 10 in Marwari |

Sardar Hukam Singh: Do the Government propose to add any more stations under this scheme for the remainder of this year?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir.

Sardar Hukam Singh: To how many stations?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The number has to be still decided.

सेठ गोबिंद दास : क्या यह बात सही है कि जैसे जैसे समय बीतता जाता है वैसे वैसे हिन्दी में जाने वाले तारों की संख्या बढ़ती जाती है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : है, किन्तु जितनी भाषा की जाती है और जिसको संतोषजनक कहा जा सकता है उतनी गति से नहीं।

AUTOMATIC POSTCARD VENDING MACHINE

*2106. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what was the cost of making experiment on an Automatic Postcard Vending Machine carried on by the P. & T. Department;

(b) whether the defects observed have been rectified by the supplying firm; and

(c) what were the terms of purchase of this machine from the firm?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The only expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 1256/10/3 on account of the cus-

toms duty on the Postcard vending machine.

(b) Yes.

(c) If the experiment with the machine is successful, we shall have to pay a sum of Rs. 2,493/- to retain it. If the experiment is not successful and the machine is returned, we shall pay only Rs. 831/-, representing half the cost of altering the machine to suit our requirements.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the precise intention and object of the Government in making this experiment, whether it was with a view to having a luxury, or with a view to having economy or with a view to satisfying the curiosity?

Shri Raj Bahadur: None of these things, Sir. It will provide better service and better facilities to the public. If such machines are introduced, people could get postcards, stamps etc. even on public holidays and during those hours when the post offices remain closed, and so on and so forth.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, while introducing such machines in India, whether the Government took into consideration the huge manpower that remains unutilised and the large number of persons that are...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member is entering into an argument.

Shri S. N. Das: I want to know, Sir, what was the object in India where there is a large manpower, to have this? Where was the necessity for this?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. This question need not be answered.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it for the first time that this machine is being tried in India, or has it been tried anywhere else in other countries?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Such machines are in vogue in other countries, in quite a large number.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the initiative came from the Government of India themselves or from the foreign interests?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are trying to improve our service. And as we think that there is a particular facility which can be introduced, we did so on our own initiative.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know with which countries contract, if any, has been entered for more machines?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have answered this question a number of times, Sir. It is Messrs. Sodeco in Switzerland.

COFFEE

*2107. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) in which States Coffee is cultivated at present;

(b) how many acres of land were utilised for Coffee cultivation in 1950-51 and 1951-52 and what was the quantity of production during the same period (State by State); and

(c) the number of plantations in 1947-48 and 1951-52?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Mysore, Madras, Coorg, Travancore-Cochin and to a small extent in Orissa.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 19.]

And I might add for the information of the House, that the total number of plantations in 1950-51 was 10,851 as against 6,546 in 1947-48 while the total area covered in 1950-51 was 2,24,215 acres as against 2,14,816 acres in 1947-48.

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the statement I find that the production of coffee in Orissa is very much less than in other States? May I know what steps have been taken to enhance the cultivation of coffee in Orissa and other areas?

Shri Karmarkar: Orissa, as my hon. friend will have noted, from the statement itself, is very poor in its promise. The number of plantations has not increased at all, while the total production was risen from 143 lbs. in 1947-48 to 771 lbs. in 1950-51; coffee plantations could be had only in places where it is feasible.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any experiment has been carried on in the tea areas of Assam and West Bengal for coffee cultivation?

Shri Karmarkar: I have no information about that.

सरदार ए० एस्० सहगल : क्या माननीय उपमंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि मध्य प्रदेश के बैतूल जिले में काफी