

(b) whether it is also a fact that certain Members feeling inconvenienced due to the working of the exchange telephones have returned their telephones and have asked their replacement by automatic ones?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, some Members have complained. These complaints, however, are more directed against the Manual system of telephones rather than against the working of the Exchange itself. It may be added that the Department addressed letters to all M.Ps. having manual telephones requesting them to report their complaints, to the Parliament Assistant of Delhi Telephones for prompt attention. The Parliament Assistant has not received a single complaint from any Member to date. A copy of the letter, and a comparative statement of complaints Exchange-wise is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 57].

(b) Yes, two Members got their manual telephones disconnected but without giving a fair trial. The disconnections were asked for not on the ground of bad service but due, as stated by one of them, to his 'hatred' for the manual telephones.

श्री राजजीवर्मा : गवर्नमेंट कब तक डाटोमेटिक टेलिफोन देने की कोशिश कर रही है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : जैसे ही तीस हज़ारों एक्सचेंज ख़ुल जाता है उस के बाद फ़ौरन कोशिश की जायेगी, और आशा है कि करबरी के अन्त तक यह सम्भव ही सकेगा ।

Sardar Hakim Singh: Have any attempts been made to bring about some compromise between that Member and this manual telephone?

Shri Raj Bahadur: An attempt was made.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is the hon. Minister in a position to assure the House that these complaints would be attended to immediately so that Members would be more energetic in sending their complaints?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I welcome the suggestion, but this is already being done.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is not sufficient time for that good humour here.

DECONTROL OF RICE IN HYDERABAD

*986. Shri P. Ramaswamy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Hyderabad have decontrolled millets and wheat;

(b) whether the prices of millets have gone up or come down as a result of this measure;

(c) whether there is a proposal to decontrol rice in Hyderabad; and

(d) whether the Central Government have given an assurance to Hyderabad Government to supply them rice to maintain a rice ration of six ounces?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Restriction on the movement and sale of millets within the State have been removed. In the case of wheat, restrictions on sale and movement within each district only have been removed.

(b) There was a slight increase in the prices during August and September after the relaxation, but in October the prices began to decline. The increase in August and September, which are lean months, is usual.

(c) No.

(d) The Central Government have increased the allotment of rice to Hyderabad in 1952 and this will enable them to maintain the present scale of 6 oz. of rice.

Shri P. Ramaswamy: May I know, Sir, what amount of rice Hyderabad has asked for 1953 and how much the Central Government has decided to give?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The demand for 1953 is for 40,000 tons of rice, but we have not yet taken a final decision regarding the allotments. In any case, we hope to give them 40,000 tons provided our stocks permit us.

Shri P. Ramaswamy: Has the Government of Hyderabad given up monopoly right procurement, and if so, will they be able to maintain 6 oz. rice ration with what they get from the Centre?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The over-all ration is 12 oz. of which the rice portion is 6 oz. Locally, they are going to procure according to a levy system.

and the rice that they will get from us will be about 40,000 tons. With this stock they hope to maintain the 6 oz. rice portion of the rations.

Shri P. Ramaaswamy: May I know how much millets the Hyderabad Government have agreed to export without prejudice to local needs?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This year, they are able to give us 15,000 tons of millets for Madras and 10,000 tons for Mysore. Regarding next year's figures, a final decision has not yet been taken, but they have got an exportable surplus to other provinces in the case of millets.

Shri Bogawat: May I know if inter-State transport of millets between Hyderabad and Bombay is allowed?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Inter-provincial restrictions have not yet been removed.

Shri B. S. Marthy: May I know, Sir, what is the total stock of rice available, and whether this will suffice until further supplies are given?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The monthly offtake of Hyderabad is only 6,500 tons, and they have got nearly 18,000 tons with them. By the end of this year, they will have a carry-over of 10,000 tons of rice, and rice procurement has already started in that State.

Shri Namblar: May I know whether there are famine-stricken areas or districts in the State of Hyderabad, and if so what steps are taken to send relief to those areas?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There are famine and scarcity areas in every province. In Hyderabad, in the Nalgonda area this year there was some scarcity at the beginning, and we have taken all steps to send them relief. 15 per cent. of the gifts or aid from foreign countries that we receive, is diverted to these areas, for proper distribution.

Shri Namblar: May I know whether they are distributed free of cost, or as wages?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Gifts are meant always for free distribution.

Shri Namblar: But.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If it is 'but' there is another opportunity elsewhere.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the famine conditions prevailing in Aurangabad district due to the decontrol of millets?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The famine scarcity cannot be attributed to the relaxation in millet movement in the country. Always it so happens that in the leanest months of August and September, there is a little rise in prices in case of every foodgrain, and then all at once they register a considerable fall. In any case, we cannot attribute the scarcity condition to the relaxation in the case of millets in that State.

RAILWAY WORKSHOP AT GORAKHPUR

*987. **Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the extension of the Railway workshop and new constructions in that connection at Gorakhpur will start during the current financial year?

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

Shri B. N. Roy: May I know the reasons for the delay in the construction?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Abagyan**): There is no delay, Sir. About Rs. 20 lakhs will be spent this year, and the whole thing will be completed within three years.

RAILWAY STATION BETWEEN DEORIA AND NUNKHAR STATIONS

*988. **Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of a new Railway Station between Deoria and Nunkhar Stations in N. E. Railway has been stopped or postponed; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Shahnawaz Khan**): (a) and (b). The work of constructing a crossing station between Nunkhar and Deoria Sadar has not been postponed. This work, however, was interrupted on account of the contractor's failure to progress it properly. It became necessary to call for fresh tenders for this work, which will be re-started as soon as a new contractor has been selected.

RAMGAPARA-TEZPUR RAILWAY LINK

*989. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to extend the North Eastern Railway from Ramgopara North to Tezpur by abolishing the narrow gauge Tezpur-Bollipur Railway; and

(b) if so, when the work is likely to be taken up?