

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know what decision has been taken on the representations which they have made?

Shri Abid Ali: We have decided not to curtail this concession, for the time being at least.

Shri Dhusiya: What were the new difficulties which the employers had to face in feeding the labour? Since when have they been facing them, and what were the reasons?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know how long have the employers been finding it difficult to provide rations to their labour according to the agreement.

Shri Abid Ali: For two or three years they have been submitting representations.

Shri Sanganna: May I know what steps are taken at the time of recruitment to make the labour know the conditions they are to undergo in the tea gardens?

Shri Abid Ali: All the service conditions are explained to the workers.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to see that the money spent by the labourers for paying more price for the foodgrains is paid by the employers as per their terms of agreement?

Shri Abid Ali: Government does not propose to impose any change to the detriment of labour.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is on the assumption that they will be asked to pay more. There is a tripartite conference.

Shri B. S. Murthy: As per the agreement the employer has got to provide the foodgrains at concessional rates. But the labourers have been purchasing foodgrains at the higher prices. May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to see that the difference in price is paid by the employers for the past period?

Shri Abid Ali: No higher prices are being paid by the workers according to our information, Sir.

SURVEY OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

*1179. **Shri Jagan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board have appointed a special officer to undertake a special

survey with a view to encourage and promote the organisation of the co-operative societies amongst the Railway workers;

(b) if so, whether any plan has been submitted by the special officer;

(c) whether Government propose to place a copy of the Plan on the Table of the House; and

(d) what steps have so far been taken by the Railway authorities for the implementation of this plan?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):

(a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). The officer has submitted a report which is under examination by Government.

Shri Jagan: May I know for what type of co-operative societies the survey was made—multi-purpose, credit societies, consumers or industrial?

Shri Alagesan: The survey has been made by the officer concerned, and he has submitted a detailed report. His recommendations are now under examination by the Government. It was with reference to multi-purpose societies and co-operative wholesale stores, etc.

Shri B. S. Murthy: When was the report submitted and how long do Government propose to take in order to implement the recommendations contained in the report?

Shri Alagesan: The report was submitted some time back. The Government may take some time in arriving at their conclusions.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know when this officer was appointed?

Shri Alagesan: I think in February, 1952.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know when he submitted his report?

Shri Alagesan: In the month of September.

MESSAGE RATE SYSTEM

*1180. **Shri Madhoo Reddi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government propose to extend the "Message rate system" to Hyderabad State during the year 1952-53?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadar): Yes; it is proposed to introduce the Message Rate system at Hyderabad sometime in 1953.

Shri Madhao Reddi: What is the object in introducing this system?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In order to relieve congestion and ensure better efficiency in the service; apart from that, to release a little more capacity on the telephones, and to effect economy.

Shri Madhao Reddi: What are the other cities to which this system will be extended this year?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Allahabad, Indore, Kanpur, Madras, Nagpur, Poona, and Simla.

Shri Heda: Is it not a fact that the telephone machinery at Hyderabad is worn out; and if so, what steps are being taken to replace it?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are attending to it from time to time. Apart from that, we have got schemes for replacements and renewals. For the present we propose to set up two new Exchanges, one at Secunderabad, the other at Saifabad, each will be a 1,400 line exchange. And then, the 500 lines which will be released from the auto board at Secunderabad will be diverted and added to the Golangoda Exchange.

KAZIPET-BALARSHA PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE

*1181. **Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to provide an additional passenger train service between Kazipet and Balarsha on the Central Railway; and

(b) whether Government are aware that before Police Action in Hyderabad, there was an additional passenger train between Kazipet and Balarsha?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, by extending the present passenger and parcel train (211 Down/212 Up) running between Bezwada and Kazipet to run between Bezwada and Balarshah.

(b) An additional passenger and parcel train was run on the Kazipet-Balarshah section as a trial measure for about 3 months from 1-4-48 to 10-7-48.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any complaints have been received from the travelling public that the parcel passenger train is not convenient and that they must have separate passenger trains instead of the parcel passenger trains?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have any information with regard to any such representations having been made.

SOIL EROSION

*1182. **Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for soil and moisture conservation:

(b) the areas which are most exposed to soil and wind erosion; and

(c) whether steps have been taken to check soil erosion in the vicinity of power and irrigation dams with a view to prevent silting up of the dams?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Preparation and execution of schemes for prevention of soil erosion are the responsibility of the State Governments. The Governments of Bombay, Punjab, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Travancore-Cochin and Uttar Pradesh etc. have got well organised soil conservation units and have schemes for combating soil erosion.

(b) The worst areas from this point of view are the foot hills of the Himalayas, the uplands of Central India, Chota Nagpur and the Deccan Plateau, Rajasthan and in the basins of the Yamuna, the Chambal, the Mahanadi, the Kistna and other rivers.

(c) Schemes for checking soil erosion in the vicinity of dams under construction are under preparation.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know if our officers have been sent abroad for training in the methods of prevention of soil erosion, and if so where?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There were five officers who were sent abroad, to U.S.A.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any expert has been invited