

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The scheme is still under examination.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Can the Government give us an idea of the estimated cost involved in this scheme?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir. If we permit the transmission of second class mail, which is now allowed to be transmitted on payment of surcharge without payment of any surcharge, it will cost us Rs. 85 lakhs volume of second class mail it per annum. If we allow the entire will cost Rs. 2 crores more.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know how many towns approximately will be linked by the Air Mail?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As many as are connected by air.

PLANT FOR HELICOPTER IN INDIA

*218. Shri Radha Raman: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a plant for the production of Helicopter aircraft in India;

(b) if so, the name of the place where it will be located;

(c) what will be its cost of construction; and

(d) how long it will take to accomplish this enterprise?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the number of Helicopters that Government require for border patrols, pest control and geological survey?

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Shri Raj Bahadur: That is a question which concerns more than one Ministry.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know the number of Helicopters which the Government possess just now?

Shri Raj Bahadur: None with the Communications Ministry.

FISHING BOATS

*222. Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have purchased three fishing boats from Norway under the Norwegian Aid;

(b) if so, the cost of each boat; and

(c) how far they have been effectively used?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

बिस्ली परिवहन सेवा

*२२३. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या परिवहन मंत्री १० मई, १९५४ को पूछे गये तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या २३६५ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या तब से १२ वर्ष तक की आयु के बच्चों के लिये डी० टी० एस० की बसों में किराया कम करने के सम्बन्ध में कोई अन्तिम निर्णय किया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह किस तिथि से लागू किया जायेगा ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The Delhi Road Transport Authority has not yet taken a decision in the matter.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री नमन प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि दिल्ली ट्रान्सपोर्ट अधिारटी की एंडबाइचरी कमिटी ने भी इस प्रकार सिफारिश की है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : यह मसला दिल्ली रोड ट्रान्सपोर्ट अधिारटी कमिटी की मीटिंग के सामने, जो कि १७ जुलाई को हुई थी, पेश हुआ था लेकिन उन्होंने यह तय किया कि इस का आखिरी फॉसला मि० मिररेंडा, जो कि आफिसर आन स्पेशल इन्सुटी-मुकरर हुए हैं, की राय पर छोड़ दिया जाय। उन्होंने राय दी है कि इस किराये में कोई कमी नहीं होनी चाहिये।

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

*224. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the report of the Socio-economic enquiry conducted in regard to the working and living conditions of the Agricultural Labour relating to the year 1950-51; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to bring the rural living to the subsistence level thereby removing the indebtedness of Agricultural Labour?

The Minister of Labour (Shri K. K. Desai): (a) and (b). The Agricultural Labour Enquiry was conducted in three stages, namely, (i) general village survey; (ii) general family survey, and (iii) intensive family survey. The results of the first stage of the Enquiry were published in 1953. The Reports on the second and third stages of the Enquiry are under print. Pending the publication of these Reports a Brochure containing a survey of all the three stages of Enquiry has recently been published. The survey has brought out very clearly the magnitude of the agricultural labour problem, and the important facts that the problem of further employment opportunities for agricultural labourers is as important as that of the fixation of minimum wages. The valuable data contained in the various Reports of the Enquiry will besides assisting the State Government in fixing and

revising minimum wages for agricultural labour also assist the Central and State Governments in drawing programmes for agricultural workers and in the formulation of the second Five Year Plan.

Shri Gidwani: Is it a fact that per capita income of agricultural labour in India is half of the per capita income of an average Indian?

Shri K. K. Desai: It is a little less than half.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether minimum wages have been fixed for such labour in all the States and whether any report has been received by Government as to the steps taken by the States?

Shri K. K. Desai: As far as fixing of minimum wages is concerned, as I said in reply to another question, it will be fixed in most of the 'C' States and the other States have taken up this question of fixing minimum wages by regions in those States.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know, in how many States other than 'C' States active steps have been taken to fix minimum wages?

Shri K. K. Desai: About three States have taken active steps—U.P., Bihar and Bombay.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether any time limit has been fixed by which the minimum wages should be fixed in the whole of India?

Shri K. K. Desai: Time limit has been fixed by the statute, but we would have to come before this Parliament again to extend this time limit; obviously, the question of fixing minimum wages for agricultural labour is a very difficult question.

Shri Gidwani: May I know what steps have been taken to remove rural indebtedness?

Shri K. K. Desai: Rural indebtedness concerns not only the agricultural labour but other rural population also. Other Ministries are also taking steps to see whether rural credit can be made available to them.