

swept away by floods and so there is demand for locomotives and wagons all round—on the lines as well as to save the cities.

POST CARD VENDING MACHINES

*1109. **Chaudhri Muhammed Shaffee:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 129 on the 23rd February, 1955 and state:

(a) the cost of stamp and post card vending machines proposed to be purchased and the names of the countries in which orders for their purchase have been placed; and

(b) the nature of the plans for increasing the number of such machines?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The estimated cost is Rs. 1,480 per machine. No information regarding countries from which machines will be purchased is available. Competitive tenders have been called by the Director-General, India Store Department, London.

(b) The ten machines are proposed to be supplied as follows:—

Three Post Card Vending Machines to Postmaster-General, Calcutta; 3 to Postmaster-General, Bombay; 2 to Postmaster-General, Madras; and 2 to Director, Postal Services, New Delhi. It is also proposed to supply one prototype Envelope Vending Machine and one Post Card-Cum-Envelope Vending Machine to Director of Postal Services, New Delhi, for trial purposes. The question of increasing the number of machines will be taken up after the machines ordered have been tried and found successful.

पंडित डी० एन० तिवारी: क्या इन मशीनों के आर्डर दते वक्त सरकार इन बातों का ध्यान रखती है या रखेगी कि जो मशीनें आएंगी उन पर कितना खर्च पड़ेगा और जो लोग स्टैम्प वीइंग के लिए रखे जाएंगे उन पर कितना खर्च पड़ेगा और साथ ही मशीनों के आने से कुछ लोग बेरोजगार तो नहीं हो जाएंगे ?

श्री राज बहादुर: इन मशीनों के आने से कोई भी बेरोजगार नहीं होगा, यह कहा जा सकता है ।

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether it has been assessed as to what would be the duration for which these machines can honestly discharge the obligations that they promise before requiring some repairs?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As any other machine would discharge the obligation that is expected of it, we also expect that this post card vending machine will also do the same.

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know how many people will become unemployed due to the introduction of this machine?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already answered that.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I wanted to know whether any period has been assessed for which it can discharge its function and whether there are any facilities here for its repair?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Of course, the machines are complicated but they are not such that the ordinary day to day repairs and maintenance work cannot be done locally. That can be done.

पंडित डी० एन० तिवारी: एक मशीन कितने आदीमियों का काम करेगी ?

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

AJMER-KOTAH RAIL LINK

*1115. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for the construction of a Railway line between Ajmer and Kotah via Kekri and Deoli; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?