

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?

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

(b) The project would be considered, while selecting new lines for construction during the Second Five Year Plan period.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: Has the survey work commenced or not?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The Western Railway have been asked to carry out the latest survey: traffic and engineering surveys.

Mr. Speaker: The point is whether it has commenced or not?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The Western Railway have been asked.

Shri Bhandari: Will it be for broad gauge or metre gauge?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I should like to inform the hon. Member that in the past, surveys had been carried out both for the metre gauge and the broad gauge. The Western Railway has been asked to review these surveys and bring them up-to-date.

Shri Amjad Ali: If I heard the hon. Member correctly, he said that both traffic survey and engineering survey are being conducted simultaneously. Is that a fact? How can that be?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): It can be. There is no difficulty in conducting both the surveys.

Shri Amjad Ali: Not together.

अंशदायी स्वास्थ्य सेवा योजना

*१११६. **सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

(क) १९५४ के अन्त तक सरकारी कर्मचारियों से अंशदायी स्वास्थ्य योजना के अधीन अंशदानों के रूप में कितनी राशि वसूल की गई, और

(ख) उसी काल में कितने सरकारी कर्मचारियों और उनके परिवार के कितने सदस्यों को मुक्त डाक्टरों की सुविधाएँ दी गईं ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (राजकुमारी अमृत कौर): (क) २,५२,२९८ रुपये, १३ आने।

(ख) सरकारी मुलाजिमों व उनके परिवार के सदस्यों की कुल संख्या, जो योजना के अधीन डाक्टरों की सुविधाएँ लेने के अधिकारी हैं, लगभग २,२०,००० हैं और जिन्होंने १९५४ के अन्त तक योजना के अधीन डाक्टरों की सुविधाएँ लीं, उनकी संख्या ७,३७,५७२ थी।

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या अभी हाल ही में इस सम्बन्ध में चपरासियों का एक बहुत बड़ा समुदाय माननीय मंत्री जी के पास आया था और क्या उनकी जो शिकायत थी उस सम्बन्ध में कुछ किया गया ?

राजकुमारी अमृत कौर : उन्होंने शिकायत तो नहीं की, बल्कि एक उनमें से बीमार हो गया था पांच बजे शाम को, तो दस बजे रात को उसका अपरेशन हुआ और उसकी जान बच गयी। उसके लिए वे धन्यवाद देने के लिए आये थे।

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या इस सम्बन्ध में भिन्न भिन्न स्थानों से और भी कुछ धन्यवाद माननीय मंत्री जी को प्राप्त हुए हैं ?

राजकुमारी अमृत कौर : जी हाँ, वह सरकारी मुलाजिम जिनके लिए इस योजना में काम किया जाता है और जिनके लिए पहले कुछ भी नहीं होता था, वे इस योजना को बहुत अच्छा समझते हैं।

RAILWAY EFFICIENCY BUREAU

*1118. **Shri Sarangadhar Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Efficiency Bureau have recommended the creation of eight Railway zones;

(b) if so, the main reasons adduced therefor; and

(c) whether any decision on the above matter has been taken so far?