

**Shri Thimmaiah:** May I know whether the Government propose to sell the telephones to outside countries and if so, what are the countries that have agreed to purchase these?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** That is what I have said. We are exploring foreign markets for exporting some of our manufactured goods.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** May I know before exporting our telephones to foreign countries, by what time Government will supply telephone connection at least to subdivisional headquarters like Godda?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** My hon. friend is keen about Godda. Godda is going to have a public call office. It is not shortage of telephone instruments which is holding up our progress in expansion; it is other exchange material which we are not manufacturing in this country at present.

#### RECRUITMENT ON RAILWAYS

\*1326. **Shri Thimmaiah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the manner of recruitment of *Khalasies* to the mechanical and Loco Departments of the various Railways?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** Direct recruitment of *Khalasies* is made by the local Divisional/District Railway Officers concerned. An advertisement for the information of public is put up on the Notice Boards which are normally hung at the gates of the workshops. Intimation is sent to the linked Employment Exchange whose candidates are considered for employment along with those who apply from the open market and are registered with the Railway Authorities. Such advertisements indicate the vacancies to be filled and the number reserved in favour of candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

**Shri Thimmaiah:** Will the Government publish the same in the local papers?

**Shri Alagesan:** We do not publish vacancies relating to Class IV staff in the papers.

**Shri Thimmaiah:** Who are the officers that constitute the Committee?

**Shri Alagesan:** Two officers are appointed by the Chief Mechanical Engineer concerned and they make the selection. The officers are of district or divisional rank.

#### RAILWAY EARNINGS

\*1327. **Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the earnings of the Southern Railway during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54; and

(b) the amount spent on the restoration of the old lines and on the construction of new lines on the Southern Railway during the above period?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 18].

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** In view of the fact that the Southern Railway covers a wider area than the rest of the railways, and in view of the difficulties in transporting goods and passenger traffic, has the Government realised that a very small amount has been set apart for construction of new lines?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not agree with all the 'ifs' of the hon. Member.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** There are no 'ifs'.

**Shri Alagesan:** The hon. Member will have noticed that the progress on the new line namely Ernakulam-Quilon is fairly rapid. We will be opening a part of it soon.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** The speed of the construction is not what I am asking. What I want to know

is whether the Government has received any requisition from the State Government concerned to construct more lines for transporting goods and passenger traffic?

**Shri Alagesan:** As regards the construction of new lines, we have invited the attention of all State Governments and many of the State Governments have forwarded their recommendations.

**श्री पी० आर० राव:** क्या हेदराबाद स्टेट से कोई प्रोजेक्ट पेश हुआ है ?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not have any information relating to that particular proposal.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: absent. Next question.

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** He is not here. I was informed by the office that my name will be bracketed in this question. Unfortunately, I do not find it here. I have received communication from the Lok Sabha Secretariat.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Why bracketed?

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** Because I had put a similar question.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry; his name is not there.

#### FOREST ADMINISTRATION

\*1330. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inspector-General of Forests scrutinises and comments on the working plans of forests of the State Governments;

(b) if so, the total number of such plans dealt with by him during the last two years; and

(c) if, however, the answer to part (a) be in the negative, how Government propose to implement the recommendation of the Planning Commission in this regard as contained in Para 22 of Chapter XXI of the Five Year Plan?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) Only summaries of prescriptions of major working plans are at present scrutinized by the Inspector General of Forests.

(b) 15.

(c) The question of setting up an agency to assist the Inspector General of Forests in scrutinizing the working plans is under the consideration of the Government.

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Do the Government contemplate any other means for the purpose of co-ordinating the activities of the State Government?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The whole field is under consideration for putting up schemes under the Second Five Year Plan.

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** May I know some of the distinctive features?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have not got the information here. If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I shall answer.

#### MEDICAL AID TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

\*1332. **Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry or investigation has been carried out to ascertain the causes of increase of incidence of important diseases including enteric fever among the Railway Staff listed in the year 1953-54 as compared with 1952-53;

(b) if so, what are the findings;

(c) the steps taken to remove the insanitary conditions responsible for most of these diseases; and

(d) the estimated loss in man-days due to enteric fever?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). Yes. The increase during 1953-54 has been mainly due to a general increase in the incidence of