

(b) Length — 1,136.94 miles
Value — Rs. 8,52,223.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know the length of wire and the value thereof which was stolen and recovered?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That may be inferred from the reply to the question. I have given the length of wire which has been stolen and not recovered. I can give the total. The total figures for the year 1954 are: length of wire stolen 1,160.45 miles; value Rs. 8,71,970.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether these cases were simple sporadic cases of theft by ordinary criminals or was there any gang found which was interested in interfering with communications?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In most cases it has been difficult to trace the culprit, and as has been evident from the length of wire not recovered, it has not been possible to trace the character of these culprits.

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कृषक-युवकों के आदान-प्रदान का कार्यक्रम

*५६. श्री भक्त वरुन : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५४ में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कृषक-युवकों के आदान-प्रदान के कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत कितने कृषक-युवक संयुक्त राष्ट्र अमरीका को भेजे जा रहे हैं; और

(ख) उनका चुनाव किस तरह किया जाएगा ?

कृषि मंत्री (डा० पी० एस० वंशमुख) : (क) २२।

(ख) नियत योग्यता में पूर्ण होने वाले भारतीय कृषक-युवकों के प्राथमिक चुनाव के लिए उनको भेंट पहले प्रादेशिक चुनाव समितियों द्वारा की जाएगी। इसके पश्चात् केंद्रीय चुनाव समिति भिन्न भिन्न प्रादेशिक चुनाव समितियों के द्वारा सिफारिश किए हुए उम्मीदवारों से भेंट करने के बाद अन्तिम चुनाव करेगी।

श्री भक्त वरुन : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि प्रत्येक राज्य के लिए क्या कोई कोटा निर्धारित किया गया है और उस को निर्धारित करने का क्या आधार निश्चित किया गया है ?

डा० पी० एस० वंशमुख : जी नहीं। ऐसा कोई कोटा निर्धारित नहीं किया गया है।

श्री भक्त वरुन : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि अब तक जो कृषक-युवक इस प्रकार की ट्रेनिंग ले कर अमरीका से लौटे हैं वे किस प्रकार से इस ट्रेनिंग से लाभ उठा रहे हैं तथा किस प्रकार से देश को लाभ पहुंचा रहे हैं ?

डा० पी० एस० वंशमुख : ऐसे कृषक-युवक भोजन का जो उद्देश्य है वह सफल हो रहा है ऐसी सरकार की राय है।

श्री इंडा : माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि पहला चुनाव प्रादेशिक समितियों की ओर से होगा, तो विभिन्न प्रादेशिक समितियों को कितने लोगों को चुनना है, इस सम्बन्ध में कोई कोटा निर्धारित किया गया है ?

डा० पी० एस० वंशमुख : यह स्टैटवाइज नहीं है। पिछले साल हम ने वैसा किया था, इस बार तो केवल दो चार जोन बनाए हैं जहां पर लोग सिलेक्ट किए जाएंगे और जैसी एप्लीकेशन्स आई हैं उनकी बिना पर सिलेक्शन किए जाएंगे...

श्री इंडा : कितने कोर्ट के जोन्स बनाए हैं ?

डा० पी० एस० वंशमुख : कुल छः जोन हैं।

Shri Damodara Menon: Is there any age-limit for these boys?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. They should be below 28.

INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION—LOSS IN EARNINGS

*57. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as a result of an extensive and systematic undercharging of freight, the Indian Airlines Corporation has, within a

period of three months, suffered a loss of Rs. 30 lakhs at Calcutta alone; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take to remedy this state of affairs?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Dabhi: May I take it that the report about this under-charging is wholly unfounded?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I have said, there has been no report about this under-charging. As for the report that appeared in *The Hindustan Times*, we proposed to take up the matter with them to ask whether any instance has come to their notice. Meanwhile, this question came, and we thought it better to reply to the question here.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it true that there are three private chartered companies in Calcutta, which operate between Bengal and Assam carrying away the major freight?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There are three non-scheduled companies which take freight from Calcutta to different places in different centres in Assam. But I would not say that they take the major part of the freight.

RAILWAY CLAIMS

*58. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1395 on the 27th September, 1954 and state the number of claims disposed of during the one year before the Claims Office was shifted from Gorakhpur to Calcutta and also during one year thereafter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): During the one year before the transfer of some claims work from Gorakhpur to Calcutta, 13,794 claims cases were disposed of in the Gorakhpur office. During the one year after the

transfer, 12,291 claims pertaining to the same area were disposed of by the Gorakhpur and Calcutta offices.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know whether the reduction in the number of claims disposed of is due to the shifting of the office from Gorakhpur to Calcutta which is a more inconvenient place for those who have claims?

Shri Alagesan: That is not borne out by the actual work, though there is a reduction in the number of claims disposed of; even that is not much. The percentage of claims disposed of in both these offices has been larger. When the office was functioning at Gorakhpur, it was 87 per cent. Now, there are two offices functioning at Calcutta and Gorakhpur, and in these offices, 97 per cent. of the claims has been disposed of.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know whether the experience of the subsequent period, i.e., after one year, justifies the shifting of the office to Calcutta?

Shri Alagesan: The hon. Member knows that after integration part of the work was done at Calcutta, i.e., the work relating to the *ex-Assam Railway*; and the *ex-O. T. Railway's* work was done at Gorakhpur. It is only the work relating to a few districts, that is now being disposed of at the Calcutta office. We have also to take into consideration the convenience of the staff, the availability of accommodation, etc. Taking all these things into consideration, I do not think I am able to say that we should shift the office from Calcutta to Gorakhpur.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Minister just stated that the question of accommodation was also taken into consideration, for shifting the office from Gorakhpur to Calcutta. May I know whether the accommodation position is not more acute in Calcutta than in Gorakhpur, and whether the dearth of quarters in Gorakhpur was the one consideration which led to the shifting of the Claims Office from Gorakhpur to Calcutta?