

UNICEF and the Corporation of Calcutta is proposed to be set up in Calcutta shortly; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme including the total estimated expenditure and the contributions made by each of the said parties?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix XII, annexure No. 20].

Postal Life Insurance Directorate, Calcutta

*2470. **Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that discharge notices have been served to some employees of the office of the Director, Postal Life Insurance, Calcutta;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to absorb them?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) They have failed in the confirmation examination even in the additional chances that were given as a grace.

(c) Under the rules in force even before they came under the control of the P. & T. from the audit, if they do not pass the confirmation examination they are liable to be discharged.

Guntakal-Bangalore Link

*2471. **Shri Lakshmayya:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from the public for the conversion of the Guntakal-Bangalore metre gauge line into a broad gauge line; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

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

(b) The proposal is not considered justified as it would defeat the very object of joining the Northern and Southern metre gauge systems by the construction of the railway line between Khandwa and Hingoli.

Strike Notice by C.T.O. Employees

*2472 { **Shri Kamath :**
Shri Naval Prabhakar :

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Tractor Organisation Employees' Union has served a notice to the effect that they will go on strike on the 20th September, 1955 ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P.S. Deshmukh) : (a) There was such a notice which has since been withdrawn.

(b) The main reason for the strike was the proposal to effect retrenchment on the basis of categorisation of the staff.

(c) It has been decided that retrenchment will not be made on the basis of categorisation but on the basis of 'last come, first out'.

Appointments in Delhi Circle

*2473. **Shri Thanu Pillai :** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the applicants from Madras for Service in the Posts and Telegraphs Department are rejected by the Delhi circle on the ground that they have not studied geography; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that geography is taught by the schools in Madras as 'Social Studies' and such qualification is recognised by the Madras Circle ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, in a few cases as the candidates did not mention that 'Social Studies' includes Geography.

(b) Yes. Orders have been issued to the Delhi and other Circles to accept such applications.

Frauds

1301. **Shri Ibrahim:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) the number of prosecutions launched in each circle against postal employees for the misappropriation or defalcation of public money in the years 1953-54 and 1954-55 ; and

(b) the number of cases amongst them which ended in conviction ?