

LOK SABHA

Monday, 5th December, 1955

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Colombo Plan

*485. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) when the Second part of the Report of the Experts from Standard Telephone and Cables Co. Ltd. England, sent to the P. & T. Department under the Colombo Plan was received by Government; and

(b) whether Government have considered the recommendations therein for expanding and speeding up the Telegraph and Telephone Communications?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The Second part of the Report of the Experts was received in April, '55.

(b) Yes. The department has initiated action on the recommendations made by the Experts.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know if the Experts have suggested any methods for modernisation of telegraph offices as well?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That was the purpose of the experts' advice. As a matter of fact they have made recommendations in regard to the introduction of automatic system in the telegraph net-work and for the introduction of the co-axial cables in order to modernise the systems and expedite the transmission of messages and to relieve congestion on the lines.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has Government made any assessment as to the additional expenditure that would be incurred in the implementation of the proposals made by the experts?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as the installation of new teleprinters is concerned including the cost of working and spare teleprinters, it is estimated that an expenditure of between Rs. 77 to Rs. 95 lakhs will be incurred. Secondly, the corresponding figures for an automatic switching system for all offices where the number of messages is more than forty per day will be of the order of Rs. 180 lakhs.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Have any concrete suggestions been made by them for speeding up the communications?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is the purpose. The provision of co-axial cables as also the introduction of the automatic switching system in telegraph will expedite the transmission of messages and also effect some economy.

Dock Workers

*488. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Port and Dock Workers Federation has submitted certain demands to Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the strike was called off on the assurance of Government that the demands were being given active and sympathetic consideration; and

(c) if so, whether the demands have been considered and what is the decision taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) The notice of a token strike was withdrawn when the measures that had been taken by the Port Authorities and Government to deal with the problems relating to Port labour were explained to the Federation.

(c) The demands relate to various categories of workers employed by the Port authorities as well as by Stevedores. The case of employees of major ports is under consideration by the Port Authorities concerned. Decisions have been taken on some matters. Others will be considered when the decision of the Bombay Industrial Appellate Tribunal on certain related matters is known. Several