

so far. Recently we have been offered a design which gives us the hope that we might be able to do that. The new dredger which we have ordered might provide for this.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know if the Government are satisfied that simply dredging of the Hooghly would be quite enough for saving the Calcutta Port without going into the Ganga Barrage; if not, what steps the Government are taking for the Ganga Barrage?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I have got no doubt in my mind that the port of Calcutta will be definitely saved. I can assure the hon. Member in that respect and he can remove all apprehensions from his mind so far as the future of the port is concerned. We are taking all possible steps so far as dredging is concerned.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** What about Ganga Barrage?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** There are three particular objectives that we have got in view. Dredging is one, river training works is the other, and supply of head-water is the third. We are at present engaged in all these three things and we hope to do whatever is possible.

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** What is the stage at which the Farrakha Barrage Scheme stands at present?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** That is under consideration, as I have said.

**P. & T. Board**

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\*42. { **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**  
**Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri R. C. Majhi:**  
**Shri Goray:**

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether question regarding the delegation of powers and functioning of the Post and Telegraph Board has been finalised; and

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(b) if so, what economy has been effected in the Ministry as a result of the constitution of the Board?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):**

(a) Most of the matters have been finalised and the P. & T. Board has started functioning with effect from the 14th December, 1959. The few remaining matters are expected to be settled shortly.

(b) One post of Deputy Secretary and some subordinate posts have been transferred from the Ministry to the P. & T. Board.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know the nature and the volume of work which are passed from the Ministry to the Board and what posts are rendered redundant, as a result of this change, in the Ministry?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** As I said in answer to part (b) of the question, one post of Deputy Secretary and some other posts have been abolished in the Ministry because these posts have been handed over to the P. & T. Board. The Deputy Secretary who was then Deputy Secretary in the Communications Ministry is now working with the P. & T. Board as Secretary to the Board.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** The first part of my question was about the nature and volume of work which have been passed on from the Ministry. What are the powers that have been given to the P. & T. Board?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** As I explained already, we have only reserved certain powers to the Ministry. That is, when policy matters are concerned they are referred to the Ministry through the Secretary. In other matters, the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs refers the matter directly to the Minister. If there is any difference in the matter of finance between the Financial Adviser and the Board, the matter is referred to me for final decision, and if the Financial Adviser needs it, it will be referred to the Finance Minister whose decision will be final.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** The hon. Minister stated that some schemes have been finalised and some other schemes are to be finalised. May I know what matters have been finalised and what matters are to be finalised?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** The question of the powers of the Board has been finalised. The question under consideration is whether in policy matters they should go through the Secretary or direct to the Minister. As I said, I feel that in policy matters it will be better that the matter goes through the Secretary, Communications.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know what is the agency through which liaison is maintained between the P. & T. Board and the Ministry?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** The agency is the Secretary, Communications.

**Shri Tyagi:** Part (b) of the question has not been amply replied to. I want to have a further clarification. I want to know whether the transfer of one Deputy Secretary and some other posts will be enough, or whether the setting up of this Board will cause further additional expenditure or not.

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** No, Sir. As I have explained, we are trying to keep the expenditure within the scale. One Deputy Secretary has been transferred as the Secretary of the Board and we have not filled up the place in the Communications Ministry.

**Shri Tyagi:** I wanted to know whether the creation of the Board will cause any extra expenditure or not.

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** No, Sir. There is no question of extra expenditure, because we have given the staff from the Ministry and reduced the staff in the Ministry.

**Shri Tangamani:** May I know whether there is any provision for setting up a machinery for negotiation between the P. & T. Board and the organisation of employees for the efficient administration of the Board?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** Yes, Sir. The usual course of communication is still available.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** What is the direct relationship between the Minister and the Chairman of the Board? Has anything about it been evolved and how does it function?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** I have explained in what matters the Chairman refers directly to the Minister and what matters he has to refer directly through the Secretary of the Ministry.

#### Conversion of Temporary Posts into Permanent Ones

\*44. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee of officers has since been set up to expedite conversion of temporary posts into permanent ones;

(b) if so, the progress made upto-date by this Committee; and

(c) the number of posts made permanent as a result of implementing the recommendations of this Committee?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** A decision was taken to set up a committee of officers to go into this question. May I know when the decision was revised and why it was revised?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** No hard and fast decision was taken. Only a suggestion was made to the railways.

**Shri Jadhav:** May I know what percentage of the railway employees are temporary?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Very roughly, about six to seven per cent.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know from where the figures, six to seven per cent, have been taken? According to the budget figures supplied last time, 19 per cent of the railwaymen are temporary.