

PROTEST STRIKE BY RAILWAY WORKERS OF MADRAS

*2023. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 6000 Railway workers of Madras had gone on a six-hour protest strike on 3rd July, 1952 and if so, why;

(b) whether it is a fact that the price of rice sold in Railway Grainshops has been increased from Rs. 0-11-9 per measure to Rs. 1-3-4 per measure from July 1952 and if so, why;

(c) whether Government are aware that this rise in price has created much discontent among the Railwaymen; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to distribute rice and essential food-stuff to the Railwaymen at fair price in view of the exorbitant rise in prices?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) to (c). Yes. With the withdrawal of rationing, the non-concessional cardholders registered in Railway grainshops have under the rules to be charged prices which will cover the purchase price plus proportionate overheads. The proposal to raise the price of rice in accordance with this formula resulted in a strike of short duration by some of the staff in areas round Madras on 3rd July, 1952.

(d) It has been decided for the present to continue sale of grains from Railway grainshops to non-concessional cardholders in the same quantities and at the same price as available in Government Fair Price shops. Government are not aware of any exorbitant rise in prices.

TELEPHONE CONNECTION FOR RAYAGADA TOWN

470. **Shri Sanganna:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of Stations in the State of Orissa that have been connected by trunk telephone with other parts of the Indian Union?

(b) Is it a fact that some important industrial and commercial centres in the State of Orissa are unconnected by trunk telephone?

(c) Is it a fact that Parvatipuram, a town (Chicacole District) in the State of Madras has been connected by trunk phone?

(d) What will be the initial outlay for connecting Parvatipuram with

Rayagada—a distance of only 30 miles—by trunk telephone?

(e) Are there any proposals in hand of the Government to provide all such important centres in the country with trunk telephone?

(f) If so, what is the probable date of putting them into operation?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a). 17.

(b) The P. and T. Department has extended telephone facility to those important places in Orissa where the anticipated trunk traffic is sufficient to cover the expenditure incurred in providing the facility. The trunk telephone facilities to other important towns in Orissa will be extended provided the State Government, Chamber of Commerce or some private individual accepts the rent and guarantees the Department against any possible loss. So far no such guarantee has been offered.

(c) Yes.

(d) The initial cost of connecting Parvatipuram with Rayagada by a pair of copper wires would be about Rs. 40,400.

(e) and (f). Yes. In the Five Year Plan commencing from the 1st April, 1951, the Department has planned to open as a rule telephone exchanges at all places in India where the population is over 30,000 and Public Call Offices at all places where the population is more than 20,000.

सगवाड़ा डाक तथा तार घर

४७१. श्री भोखा भाई: क्या संवरण मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राजस्थान के सगवाड़ा डाक तथा तार घर से भेजी जाने वाली डाक गढ़ी डाक तथा तारघर तक एक सप्ताह में पहुंचती है, यद्यपि उनकी दूरी केवल दस मील है;

(ख) यदि उपर्युक्त भाग (क) का उत्तर स्वीकारात्मक हो, तो उसके कारण; तथा

(ग) क्या सरकार द्वारा इस वस्तु-स्थिति को सुधारने के लिये कुछ कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?