

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 ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). There is an unbridged river between Sagwara and Garhi. The mails from Sagwara were being routed via Udaipur, Chitorgarh, Ratlam and Dohad, and were being delivered at Garhi on the fifth day. As a result of the introduction of a ferry service across the river from 1st July, 1952, mails are being delivered on the next day.

CEREALS

472. Shri K. P. Tripathi: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cereals supplied to managements of tea industry in 1951 from imported sources (State wise);

(b) whether the cereal so supplied was subsidised; and

(c) if so, the amount involved (State wise)?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The quantity of foodgrains supplied to the tea gardens in Assam and West Bengal from imported sources during 1951 were:

Assam—64,352 tons.

West Bengal—53,182 tons.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

LOTTERY FORMS AND CIRCULARS

473. Shri V. G. Deshpande: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rule No. 153 of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Manual Volume V, (read with Clause No. 96 of the Posts and Telegraphs Guide) is applicable to the lottery forms and other circulars relating to lotteries being circulated by post throughout India; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the postal authorities to enforce this rule?

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

(b) Whenever any infringement of the rule is detected, the article is returned to the sender, as prescribed in the rules.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS

474. Shri M. Islamuddin: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of Training Centres for training telephone operators;

(b) the number of trainees each year in each of these Centres during last three years; and

(c) the period of training?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 41.]

PUBLIC CALL OFFICE

475. Shri K. S. Gounder: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what are the general requirements for opening of a new Public Call Office in Telegraph Office in rural area; and

(b) whether there are proposals or possibilities of opening new Public Call Offices in the towns of Theni, Periyakulam, Bodinayakanur, Cumbum, Chinnamanur and Usilampatti in Madurai District, Madras State?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) It is the policy of the Department to open a Public Call Office at each place where the population is more than 20,000 subject to the availability of funds and the project being remunerative.

(b) It is proposed to open Public Call Offices at Theni and Bodinayakanur and an exchange at Periakulam during the current financial year. The proposal to open a Public Call Office at Usilampatti is under examination.

Regarding Cumbum and Chinnamanur, the demand for telephone facilities from these places is not appreciable and it is anticipated that the Department would suffer heavy loss if Public Call Offices were opened there. So it is not proposed to include them in the Department's programme for opening public call offices unless the State Government or private parties offer guarantees against the anticipated losses.