

some pockets and foci in the problem areas.

(d) No. It is not necessary.

(e) This is primarily a matter for the State Governments. Their particular attention to this problem was drawn in May, 1959 and from the replies received so far, it is observed that most of the State Governments and Union Territories would be in a position to utilise the services of the staff rendered surplus when the National Malaria Eradication Programme is completed.

#### **Bifurcation of R.M.S. Andhra**

**142. Shri Yallamanda Reddy:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for bifurcation of R.M.S. 'Y' Division in Andhra Circle (Posts and Telegraphs);

(b) if so, when; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the headquarters of the proposed new division is going to be located outside the State of Andhra Pradesh?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati):** (a) to (c). There was a proposal to bifurcate the RMS 'Y' Division in Andhra Circle, but it has been decided not to do so.

#### **Fruits and Vegetables**

**143. Shri Yallamanda Reddy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to undertake marketing survey to assess the availability of fruits and vegetables grown in the country; and

(b) if so, when it will be completed?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) Yes. A scheme to survey the acreage and

production of fresh fruits and vegetables suitable for canning and processing in the country has been undertaken by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection with effect from 1st April, 1962.

(b) The scheme has been sanctioned upto 31st March, 1963, and the report is expected to be completed by this date.

#### **Scales of Pay of Railway Assistant Surgeons**

**144. Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Railway Medical Association has urged to bring the grades of the Assistant Surgeons Gr. I on par with those of Central Health Services; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) and (b). Representations were received from various sources viz. Railway Doctors, Indian Medical Association, All India Railway Assistant Surgeons Association, etc. urging that the scales of pay, prospects of promotion and status of Doctors should be improved so as to bring them on par with the staff of the Contributory Health Service Scheme. These representations were examined and the following decisions were taken:—

(1) The authorised scale of pay of Rs. 335-20-475-25-575-EB-25-650 allotted earlier provisionally to Assistant Surgeons should be treated as final.

(2) Private practice by Assistant Surgeons should be restricted to (i) families of the Railway employees drawing pay of Rs. 150 per month and over at their residence; (ii) passengers who take ill while on travel and (iii) outsiders who may be admitted as indoor patients

or for surgical treatment in Railway Hospitals.

(3) A restricted non-practising allowance on the following scale should be granted to Assistant Surgeons:—

(a) Specialists like Anaesthetists, Radiologists, Dentists, etc. who by the very nature of their profession are not likely to have any general practice:

(i) Rs. 75 per month for those drawing upto and inclusive of Rs. 500 per month.

(ii) Rs. 100 per month for those drawing pay above Rs. 500 per month.

(b) Other Assistant Surgeons.

(i) Rs. 125 per month for those drawing pay upto and inclusive of Rs. 500 per month.

(ii) Rs. 100 per month for those drawing pay above Rs. 500 per month.

(4) Assistant Surgeons after 5 years service shall hold the honorary gazetted rank and shall be entitled to the usual privileges granted to gazetted officers in matters such as passes, allotment of quarters etc.

(5) The cadre of Assistant Medical Officers should be reviewed to improve the promotion prospects of Assistant Surgeons.

#### सत्ता का विकेन्द्रीकरण

१४५. श्री तन सिंह : क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार बड़े नगरों में भी सत्ता के विकेन्द्रीकरण के प्रश्न पर विचार कर रही है; और

(ख) ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की भांति नगरों में इस प्रकार के विकेन्द्रीकरण में क्या व्यावहारिक और सैद्धान्तिक बाधाएँ हैं ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (डा० सुशीला नायर) :

(क) इस बारे में एक मुद्दाव रखा गया है जो परीक्षणाधीन है ।

(ख) इस मुद्दाव के अन्तिम रूप में स्वीकृत किये जाने पर ही कठिनाइयों का परीक्षण एवं समाधान किया जायेगा ।

#### Thefts of Copper Wire

146. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of thefts of copper wires in the different Postal and Telegraph Divisions of the country, Division-wise in 1962 upto the end of July;

(b) the estimated cost of the wires stolen;

(c) whether it is a fact that the theft cases are on the increase;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to check it?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) During 1961-62, there was an increase in some areas but reduction in others.

(d) This is an essentially a Law and Order problem. The thefts are brought to the notice of the respective State Governments.

(e) The following steps have been taken:

1. Close liaison by Circle authorities with State Police authorities to apprehend the culprits.
2. Increase of liability to punishment for the offence.
3. Replacement of copper wire by copper-weld wire in theft affected areas.